



MINUTES

Minutes of the General Meeting of WASFR Inc. held at the Cambridge Bowling Club, Howtree Place, Floreat, on Friday **13 SEPTEMBER 2024.**

The President opened the meeting at 10.05am and explained that it had become necessary to have the guest speaker on first. The usual General meeting will commence around 11am (after morning tea break).

The President then proceeded to introduce Sue Doherty - she is a last minute replacement for Robyn Nolan who had advised that she was unable to participate this morning. Sue spoke about the WA Women's Hall of Fame and the history behind its conception back in 2011. The year 2011 represents 100 years since the establishment of International Women's Day - which actually began in New York City on March 8, 1857, when female textile workers marched in protest of unfair working conditions and unequal rights for women. Since that time the day has fostered a strong sense of solidarity across the world. International Women's Day is based on community, connection, and collaborative action. As such, IWD is an inclusive day that belongs to all groups everywhere.

At the conclusion of Sue's presentation the President thanked Sue for becoming available at such short notice and gave her a small gift as recognition of our appreciation.

Morning tea followed and the General meeting commenced at 11am. There were 23 members and 5 visitors.

APOLOGIES:

V. Payne, R. & J. Dawson, G. & J. Howard and H. Ellis.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES: Moved R. Wyatt and seconded by M. Collett, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2024 be accepted as a true record. Carried.

BUSINESS ARISING:

Investment Group: P. Farr said that the last meeting, held on 21st August with Damian Collins as speaker, was well received. Although only 15 members attended, we feel that these meetings provide a worthwhile outlet for members to listen to well qualified speakers on financial matters. P. Farr went on to emphasize the importance of having a "Family Conference" where parents can sit down with their children, and other relatives, and discuss the details in Enduring Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Guardianship, Advanced Health Directives and Wills. There is a danger in saying "Yes, I will do that one day". Unfortunately, procrastination is something that many people seem to be guilty of. No date has yet been set for the next meeting - members will be advised when a suitable speaker has been confirmed.

Aged Care: The President spoke about the announcement the previous day where the Prime Minister announced that the draft new Aged Care Act was being presented to Parliament. This proposed legislation has been years in the making and regarded by many as being well overdue. The government is claiming that this draft legislation is "*putting care back into aged care*" and is at the heart of the government's move.

- "*Older Australians built this country, shaped our economy, did the hard yards. They embody the strength and the spirit of our nation,*" the Prime Minister said.
- "*Our government is working to ensure that the aged care system that supports them is stronger now and sustainable into the future. Reforms like this do not happen every day. They are once-in-a-generation, and my government is proud to deliver them, as we said we would*".

Treasurer Jim Chalmers said the reform package was a major initiative of the budget, which has the double-barrel result of caring for older Australians while also improving the government's bottom line. "*This is how we improve aged care and strengthen the budget at the same time.*" "*It's a step change in care, and a structural reform to the budget.*" The President noted that the changes will be a saving to the government of **\$12.6 billion** over the next 11 years - with a cost of \$930 million over the next four years. This considerable saving will be the result of making the elderly pay more. General discussion followed on issues such as (a) allowing providers

to take a yearly 2% levy from a RAD with a maximum of 5 years, (b) deleting any reference in the current legislation where providers can be subject to criminal prosecution, (c) an increase in the maximum amount of a RAD to \$750,000 then the possible phasing out of RADs in the next 10 years, (d) a new Non-Clinical Care Contribution (NCCC) and increasing the maximum amount payable from (?) \$76,000 to \$130,000, (e) combining Home Care Packages with the Support at Home packages from 1 July 2025 and (f) claims that people already in Aged Care will be “no worse off” i.e. grandfathering.

The President made the observation that it seems that providers of Aged Care facilities were strongly represented in the decision-making process.

M. Walsh reminded members that there is a webinar due to be conducted by the Dept. of Health & Aged Care at 12 noon today - members are invited to stay back and watch. Two more webinars are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday next week.

WA Seniors Peak Body: Due to the shortage of time available the President summarised the emails concerning attempts to get a meeting with Advocare. Initially we were told that some time after 23rd September might be acceptable, however, recent emails seem to suggest that such a meeting might have to be delayed until the new CEO commences duty (mid-November). Advocare have outlined, in general terms, what they expect to be involved with regarding their appointment as WA’s Seniors Peak Body. Unfortunately, it appears that they will be answerable to the Dept. of Communities and will be reporting to the Minister for Seniors and Ageing i.e. not an independent body.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Emails (many) re *WA Seniors Peak Body* - proposed meeting with CEO of Advocare
- Emails re new Aged Care Act - webinar 24th September
- Emails from OPAN - “*The National Advocate*” August edition (also re delays with Aged Care)
- Email from WA Public Trustee - National Wills week (9th – 15th September)
- Emails from A.I.R. - Perth newsletter plus *AIR ACTIVE* (August)
- Emails re guest speakers
- Email re WASFR website - invoice \$110
- Email from Kate Chaney - August newsletter plus “*upcoming events*”
- Email from Town of Cambridge - September details
- Email re Curtin Radio 100.1
- Email from COTA Australia - Elder Abuse plus Home Care services
- Email from COTA WA - August newsletter
- Emails from National Seniors - inc. *NSA Connect* 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th August, 6th September
- Email from Dept. Health - *Engaged* August edition
- Email from Avon Recovery Centre - Grevillea Park (Defence Forces Recovery)
- Email from CPSA - August newsletter
- Email from Australian Seniors - *DARE* magazine (September/October)
- Brisbane North Retirees - September newsletter
- Emails from ACOSS (2)
- SMSF Weekly News Digests (5)

FINANCE: The Treasurer, M. Harris, invited members to look at the monthly financial statement printed on the reverse of today’s Agenda. Funds available as at 13 September were \$6,975.64 with no outstanding accounts.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Other: No other business to discuss.

Speakers for the following months are as follows

11 October	Nigel Farrier	<i>History of Electrical Vehicles - Pros and Cons</i>
9 November	Christmas Party	<i>The Band “Fragments”</i>

Confirmed

Date

NEXT GENERAL MEETING FRIDAY 11 OCTOBER 2024

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