



**Minutes of the Australian Health Economics Society
Annual General Meeting
5.30pm, 26 September 2013
UNIVERSITY HOUSE, CANBERRA**

(Subject to ratification at 2014 AGM)

The President of the Society, Rosalie Viney, declared the meeting open at 5.40 pm.

Present: Jenny Watts, Rosalie Viney, Lisa Gold, Mike Shields, Joanne Epp, Bonny Parkinson, Julie Ratcliffe, Jing Jing Li, Billy Kaambwa, Paula Lorgelly, Alistair Wilson, Terence Cheng, Nicole Au, Denzil Fiebig, Martin Howell, Janelle Seah, Karyn Kung, Brett Doble, David Johnston, Caroline Watts, Wang-Sheng Lee, Tony Scott, Anthony Harris, Son Nghiem, Ian McRae.

Apologies: none received

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was moved by Denzil Fiebig and seconded by Bonny Parkinson that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. The motion was carried.

President's Report

The President thanked the AHES Executive and their Committee for their support and assistance over the past year. Particular thanks to Lisa Gold, Jenny Watts and Michael Shields for their input on the Conference and every other aspect of the Society's operations, Ian McRae and Jim Butler for their role in organising the Conference, Jing Jing Li and Jenny Watts who have put in an enormous amount of effort to get the new website up and running, Bonny for her efforts in organising the inaugural PhD workshop, Julie and Joanne for ongoing input into policy, and into development of the new website and other AHES activities.

In particular, the President noted the amazing, energetic, dedicated and sustained efforts that Lisa Gold has made to the Society in her 10 years of tenure as our Secretary. Lisa has been a driving force in the Executive, the engine room of much of our activity and the repository of knowledge. She has also made huge contributions to the profile of health economics in Australia, and we know that she will continue to do so.

A major activity of the Society over the past 12 months has been the establishment of our new look website, which has also incorporated the newsletters in a new format, and up to date information on the Conference and on other activities.

The President thanked the local organisers of this year's conference – Ian McRae and Jim Butler and also special mention to Kimberly Brady and Jaimee Bell who have done much of the legwork in organising the venue, catering, conference dinner and conference materials. We have had been very pleased to have joint sponsorship from the Australian Centre for Economic Research on Health and Deloitte Access Economics for this year's Conference.

The IHEA Congress was the major activity for the Society during 2013 and much of our energy was directed to ensuring that it was a success. The AHES Executive assisted through membership of the Conference Organising Committee and through other support throughout the organisation of the program and social venue. However the most tangible element of the AHES Support was our sponsorship of the E-Posters, which were a very successful and innovative component of the Conference program.

As was to be expected, the attendance at this year's AHES Conference is down on previous years due to the IHEA Congress being held in Sydney in July. Two important innovations at this year's Conference have been: First, the decision to focus one of our keynote addresses on a leading mid-career Australian researcher, and we were delighted that David Johnston accepted the invitation to present a keynote address at the Conference. Second, the inaugural Australian Health Economics Doctoral Workshop which has been organised by Bonny Parkinson and Brett Doble. This workshop was held on Wednesday, and was very well attended. We look forward to it as a permanent fixture of the AHES Conference.

The President thanked Mike Shields for organisation of the Early Career Research Prize for the 2013 Conference.

In terms of other activities we sponsored the third AWEHE for \$1500, and have agreed to continue to sponsor this in 2014.

The Society was active in coordinating submissions to the ABDC Journal Ranking exercise. The results have recently been announced and it is very pleasing to see that Health Economics is now ranked as an A* journal on this list, and Pharmacoeconomics is now an A journal and Value in Health has been included as a B journal.

Continuing in the activities that began after the 2010 AGM, the Society and the Executive have continued to be involved in the policy arena promoting health economics issues.

The President particularly thanked Bruce Hollingsworth who has continued to be an active member of AHES in his new position in the UK and to represent the Society (and other regional health economics societies) on the IHEA Board. In particular Bruce has been working very hard with other members of the Board to increase the transparency of decision making and financial reporting by IHEA. Bruce has included a separate report to the AHES members which is attached to this report.

The President noted that there is a forthcoming election to the IHEA Board. AHES was active in nominating two of our members for Board positions, and our advice is that Denzil Fiebig's nomination to the ballot paper was successful. The Society encourages all AHES members to vote for Denzil, and to encourage others to do so. Denzil would be a very valuable Board member and an excellent voice of regional health economics, as well as having the enormously valuable experience of having co-convened the recent IHEA Congress.

The AHES Research Prize, which is a biennial prize, is awarded at the 2013 Conference. All eligible papers in Health Economics and Journal of Health Economics are automatically eligible for the prize, and other papers are shortlisted. This year there were 22 papers under consideration. The President thanked Bruce Hollingsworth, Tony Scott and Michael Shields for helping with the shortlisting of papers to make the process more streamlined for the Judging Panel. The committee shortlisted 6 papers, and the judging panel – Bruce Hollingsworth, John Wildman and Andy Street reviewed all 6 of these papers and unanimously agreed on the winner. Particular thanks to our international judging panel.

The president's report was moved by Julie Ratcliffe and seconded by Tony Scott.

Treasurer's Report

Jenny Watts tabled the 2012/13 financial report and presented the 2012 Treasurer's report (see Appendix A).

The Treasurer reported that the finances of the Society are healthy. The Treasurer reported that one major activity in the last year has been the development of the new AHES website a big budget item for the year. Due to the new website, all payments for conference and memberships are now going through AHES' paypal account; there will be a period of familiarisation with this new payment system any issues, such as the provision of tax receipts will likely iron out over time. The Treasurer reported, that the conference this year is cheaper than other years, thus despite a lower attendance at this conference, the balance sheet of the Society remains healthy.

The Treasurer's report was moved by Caroline Watt and seconded by David Johnston.

Election of Office-Bearers

Nominations for candidates for election as officer-bearers of the Society were called for in the third issue of the 2013 newsletter. By the due date of 18th September 2013, the following nominations had been received by the Secretary:

- President: Rosalie Viney
- Secretary: Jing Jing Li
- Treasurer: Jenny Watts
- General Committee: Julie Ratcliffe
- General Committee: Bonny Parkinson

According to the rules of the Society, these positions were declared elected.

At the AGM, the following nominations were received and carried:

- Public officer: Joanne Epp (nominated by Jenny Watts, seconded by Lisa Gold)
- Vice-President: Michael Shields (nominated by David Johnston, seconded by Brett Doble)
- General Committee: Hong Son Ngiem (nominated by Lisa Gold, seconded by Michael Shields)

The President thanked everyone for their contributions.

AHES iHEA travel Scholarships

At the 2012 Conference, the Society made the decision to direct its funding for student travel scholarships to the IHEA Congress in Sydney. Six student scholarship applications were received and awarded for PhD students from the Australasian region to attend the IHEA Congress.

There followed some discussion about the travel scholarships. The decision was to go with decision at the 2012 AGM. At the 2012 AGM it was decided that travel scholarship awards is to be split: that AHES offer up to two international scholarships to the Asia-Pacific region (that region to exclude Australia and the USA) and up to two domestic postgraduate student scholarships (of \$1000).

It was also decided that the awards be restricted to PhD students in the future (they are available to both junior staff and PhD students at the moment) as there was concern that the scholarships were substituting for workers' departmental funds (or lack thereof). To ensure that people clearly meet the criteria for scholarship a form will be provided on the website that applicants to confirm that they meet criteria as well as a letter from the supervisor.

It was also proposed that in order to obtain the travel scholarship, the student should also submit a paper to AHED.

Conference 2014

Julie Ratcliffe reported on the progress of the 2014 conference which is to be held in Adelaide.

Julie Ratcliffe reported that several venues had been considered as the conference venue. The Hilton and the Wine Centre had been excluded, the former due to its unimpressive fit out and the latter due to its heavy liaison with University of South Australia (the local organizer is Flinders University). Due to these reasons, the Stamford Grand Hotel at Glenelg is the preferred venue for the conference. The organising committee has considered several conference dinner venues, but is waiting budge approval before a decision can be made.

Martin Buxton from Brunel has been informally invited as the international keynote speaker for the 2014 conference. The local organising committee will continue to look into conference sponsorship.

AHED workshop feedback

The President reported that good feedbacks have been received about the inaugural AHED workshop this year and that it is to be a permanent fixture of the AHES conference. Denzil Fiebig suggested that the Committee should consider how it can be run better next year, with particular focus on improving student engagement in the discussions. The President suggested that Bonny Parkinson and Brett Doble should seek additional feedback from this year's participants and then report back to the committee. Tony Scott questioned whether the committee would continue to allow students to present the same paper at both AHED and AHES in future years. Rosalie Viney considered that there are some benefits in this format in that the students will be able to reach a broader audience at AHES than at the AHED workshop. However this will be given further consideration once more formal feedbacks from this year's participants are received.

AHES and iHEA

AHES representation on iHEA Board (report from Bruce Hollingsworth)

Bruce Hollingsworth via Rosalie Viney provided a summary for AHES Members of iHEA Board meeting in Sydney, July 2013.

Bruce reported that although Anne Mills (IHEA President) and some members had to leave the day before the Board meeting, but there were just enough members for it to go ahead.

The Board passed a motion congratulating Sydney on an excellent meeting which was very successful. Bruce noted that the organising committee and AHES members should know that as a result of this congress Australasian health economics in general came across in a very positive light, and is now firmly on the international map, and Sydney will long be remembered as an outstanding congress in every respect. If members who attended have any feedback about the congress please let Bruce know, as it can be passed on to the Board.

Bruce Hollingsworth further reported that for future iHEA conferences more student events are planned - mentor dinners, "meet the experts" lunches etc. Bruce also proposed some methods workshops might be useful. Again, Bruce Hollingsworth would like to know if you have any ideas for adding benefit to future meetings.

Proposals for future conferences (after Dublin 2014, Milan 2015, and Boston 2017) are on the table from Turkey and Switzerland - a call has gone out for more. A call is also out for one new Board member, and a president elect. Bruce reminded AHES members that it is very important that people take note of this and vote, as every vote makes a difference in IHEA elections.

There is to be a new strategic plan for iHEA, and Bruce Hollingsworth will be on the sub-committee. The final report is due in Milan 2015. An email has gone out about a consultation to be held in Dublin 2015. If any members wish to put forward any initial ideas or wish to be involved please let Bruce know as soon as possible.

The next Board meeting is in January. If AHES members have any questions or queries in the meantime please let Bruce Hollingsworth know.

Following Bruce's report there were some discussions amongst members on aspects of iHEA conduct particularly on the aspect of iHEA finances. David Johnston asked if there are all these negative reports on iHEA should AHES continue to be associated with it. Paula Lorgelly asked whether these are objections to AHES being associated with iHEA or whether it's just that people object to the current management of iHEA. It was reiterated at the meeting that people should vote for Denzil as a board member at the upcoming elections. Paula asked whether Bruce can continue to act as a regional representative given he has now taken up residence in the UK and thus is not an active member of AHES. Lisa Gold confirms that it makes sense for Bruce to continue to act as our regional representative because if Bruce is to give up the position, we may lose that representation all together, i.e. the next spot may go to another region rather than be retained within the Asia Pacific.

Denzil Fiebig contended given people are now more aware of the financial issues at iHEA, things might improve. Rosalie Viney also reiterated Denzil's sentiment in that the situation would improve if more AHES members become more actively involved with iHEA.

Any other business

The location for the 2015 AHES conference was discussed at the meeting. It was proposed and accepted that the 37th AHES conference (2015) shall be held in Brisbane. A call out for AHES members interested in hosting the conference is to go out in the next newsletter.

The President declared the meeting closed at 6.57pm.

APPENDIX A: AHES Treasurers Report 2012/2013FY

		TOTALS
OPENING BANK BALANCE (1/07/2012)		\$ 40,933.41
REVENUE		\$ 54,512.64
INTEREST	\$ 22.81	
MEMBERSHIP 2012/13 (N=133)	\$ 5,600.00	
2012 CONFERENCE (REGISTRATIONS=82)	\$ 35,860.00	
SPONSORSHIP (DHA - BALANCE FROM 2011)	\$ 6,679.00	
SPONSORSHIP (NT GOVT)	\$ 5,000.00	
GST	\$ 400.68	
ADJUSTMENT	\$ 950.15	
TOTAL REVENUE		\$ 95,446.05
EXPENDITURE		
2012 CONFERENCE TOTAL		\$ 41,024.63
- VENUE	\$ 17,614.25	
- DINNER (INCLUDES TRANSPORT)	\$ 9,957.00	
- OTHER	\$ 2,400.85	
- SPEAKERS (CAROL PROPPER & DENZIL FIEBIG)	\$ 10,372.53	
- EXECUTIVE DINNER	\$ 680.00	
2012 RESEARCH PRIZES TOTAL		\$ 2,299.50
- TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP X3	\$ 1,669.50	
- ECR PRIZE	\$ 500.00	
- ENGRAVING	\$ 130.00	
		\$ 21,561.39
2013 IHEA E-POSTER SPONSORSHIP	\$ 15,000.00	
2013 CONFERENCE DINNER DEPOSIT	\$ 2,916.00	
2013 AHED SPONSORSHIP	\$ 400.00	
SPONSORSHIP - HEALTH ECONOMETRICS CONFERENCE 2013	\$ 1,500.00	
INTERNET HOSTING 2012/13	\$ 34.19	
BANK FEES AND CHARGES	\$ 1,711.20	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 64,885.52
CLOSING BANK BALANCE (30/06/2013)		\$ 30,560.53

CLOSING BANK BALANCE (23/09/2013)	\$ 52,338.52
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