



## **Minutes of the Australian Health Economics Society Annual General Meeting 6:00pm, 25th Septmber 2016 Esplanade Hotel, FREMANTLE**

**(Subject to ratification at 2017 AGM)**

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Society, Tony Scott, who declared the meeting open at 6:15 pm.

**Present:** Jing Jing Li, Rachel Milte, David Johnston, Tony Scott, Jenny Watts, Chris Schilling, Michelle Tew, Kim Dalziel, Dennis Petrie, Anthony Harris, Blake Angell, Robert Hughes, Anthony Niu, Tianxin Pan, Tracy Comans, Jemimah Ride, Claryn Kung, Nicole Black, Martin Hensher, Irina Kinchin, Virginia Mumford, Henry Cutler, Richard Norman, Bonny Parkinson, Susan Mendez.

**Apologies:** Denzil Fiebig

### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was moved by David Johnston and seconded by Jing Jing Li that the minutes of the previous meeting be accepted. The motion was carried.

### **President's Report**

This is my first year as AHES President, and I like to thank the AHES Executive for making the transition very smooth. I'm very much looking forward to an exciting conference which has been expertly organised by a team of local organisers: Richard Norman, Suzanne Robinson, Liz Geelhoed, WA Health Economics group (WATCHE), and also the AHES Executive, particularly David Johnston, JingJing Li, and Jenny Watts, but also other members who provided useful input throughout. There is a lot of attention to detail that is hard to see or appreciate that make AHES conferences such a success, and most of the time these guys just get on and do it.

We are lucky to have secured two outstanding keynotes, John Cawley and Andy Street, with the assistance of sponsorship from the Western Australian Department of Health. John and Andy have kindly agreed to speak at the Department on Wednesday as part of their visit.

We also have a quite a large program of 80 papers this year, with four parallel sessions. This makes the conference larger and busier, and though we don't think this is a long term trend, we do continually seek ways to maintain the quality of discussion and debate, and so your feedback is always welcome. Jon Karnon is also holding an open meeting on Monday lunchtime about a proposed teaching collaboration in health economics. I encourage all interested to attend.

We also have our 4th Australian Health Economics Doctoral Workshop on Wednesday, and would like to express our thanks to Claryn Kung & Anthony Niu (Monash), Barbara de Graaff (Menzies Institute for

Medical Research, UTAS), Tanja Windegger (The University of the Sunshine Coast), and Jeffrey Cannon (Telethon Kids Institute) for organising. We continue of course to encourage submissions from PhD students to AHED, as it is a great way to get feedback from senior people and to get recognition for your hard work.

We have offered 4 scholarships this year to attend AHES. Two to international students: Moradvaj and Mujaheed Shaikh; and two to Australian-based students: Nathan Kettlewell and Chris Schilling.

### **Activities**

AHES has been asked to provide nominations for several different committees:

- National Blood Authority. National Immunoglobulin Governance Advisory Committee. One nomination forwarded.
- Gastroenterological Society of Australia. Infection Control for Endoscopy. No nominations received.
- PBAC
  - o Four post-market reviews of medicines. Four nominations submitted
  - o PBAC members. Five nominations submitted

This year we also wrote and submitted two submissions to government enquiries:

- Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Big Data and Data Linkage. AHES was asked to talk to the Committee in December 2015 and was represented by Philip Clarke. I'd like to thank Rosalie Viney, Phillip Clarke, Agnes Walker, and Anthony Newell for their assistance in preparing the submission.
- Submission to the Medical Research Future Fund consultation: Strategy and Priorities. Thanks to Rosalie Viney, Tony Harris, Jon Karnon, and Marian Shanahan for their assistance with this submission.
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AHES encourages members to participate in these activities as they do increase the impact of health economics in Australia. We do rely on volunteers to take these issues forward, and we do focus on issues of general benefit to health economics in Australia, particularly issues that influence the funding of health economics. However, we do not take specific positions on health policy. For submissions and advocacy, the process at the moment is that those interested should contact the AHES Executive with a proposal, and then we will ask for volunteers to form a small committee to assist with writing of a submission.

If you have a bee in your bonnet about an issue that affects the majority of health economists in Australia, then please put your hand up to lead the writing of a submission, or volunteer for a committee.

AHES constitution. After last year's AGM, we have been examining the constitution to investigate the implementation of electronic voting and a 4 year maximum term of AHES office bearers and councillors. I again would like to thank Jing Jing and Jenny, and the rest of the executive for their assistance with this.

### **Other issues**

Australian Health and Hospitals Association. A number of AHES members notified us of a health economics course being sponsored by AHHA and run from the University of Ottawa in Canada by people no one had heard of. This seems to be a commercial arrangement with one of AHHA partners. Tony wrote to Alison Verhoeven and visited AHHA to highlight that there is an active domestic supply of short courses with country-specific knowledge. The main issue coming from this is that there is clearly a demand for short courses in health economics and that those running short courses are encouraged to advertise more widely and should explore partnering with other associations and organisations. There is also a broader issue about the relationship of AHES with other associations, and whether such relationships would be beneficial for AHES and its members.

**Expression of thanks.** I would also like to formally thank those stepping down from the AHES executive – Bonny Parkinson, Jing Jing Li, Claryn Kung, and Richard Norman. Jing Jing particularly will be missed and has contributed greatly to the AHES website, communications with members, conference organisation, and has helped AHES to run very smoothly. Bonny has also made strong contribution, in particular stepping in for Jing Jing while she was on maternity leave, but also for helping establish the AHED workshop. And we also thank Richard's in his role in organising this conference, and Claryn Kung for her role in leading the organisation of the AHED workshop this year.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Jenny Watts tabled the 2015/16 financial report and presented the 2015 Treasurer's report (see Appendix A).

The Treasurer's report was moved by Bonny Parkinson and seconded by Virginia Mumford.

## **Election of Office Bearers**

Nomination for candidates for election as office-bearers of the society were called via the September newsletter sent to the membership. By the due date of 19th September 2016, the following nominations had been received by the Secretary.

- President: Tony Scott
- Vice President: David Johnston
- Secretary: Rachel Milte
- Treasurer: Jenny Watts
- Public Officer: Virginia Mumford, Tom Lung, Blake Angell
- General Councillor: Michelle Tew
- General Councillor: Henry Cutler (2017 conference organiser)

As for the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and General Councillor there was one candidate, according to the rules of the Society these positions were declared elected. As there were three candidates who nominated for the public officer role, a vote was held for this role. Votes for the candidates for public officer were as follows: Virginia Mumford 9 Votes, Tom Lung 5 votes, and Blake Angell 5 votes. Under the rules of the society, Virginia Mumford was elected to the Public Officer role.

The society took nominations for members for the remaining role of General Councillor (AHED Organiser for 2017). Barbara de Graaff (nominated by Claryn Kung and seconded by Jenny Watts) was elected to the role of General Councillor AHED Organiser for 2017 under the rules of the society.

## **Vote for Special Resolution for maximum 4 year term for office bearers**

At the 2015 AHES Annual General Meeting, members voted to change the term limits for office holders to a total continuous period of 4 years, in addition to necessary changes to include two general council members to be local organisers of the annual conference and annual doctoral workshop. For this to take effect, the AHES Constitution needed to be amended, spelling out all necessary changes, including how to transition into the four year terms for existing committee members, so as to avoid all office holders being required to step down at the same time.

The proposed amendments to the constitution were sent to members to consider 4 weeks prior to the AGM, with the changes identified as in Appendix B.

Tony Scott called for a vote on the special resolution to change the constitution to be held. The results of the vote is as follows: 21 Members in favour of changing the constitution and 4 members against. As this was greater than 75% of attendees the special resolution was passed. Tony Scott advised that the committee would advise the NSW Office of Fair Trading of the results of the vote to change the constitution.

## **AHES conference 2017**

Bonny Parkinson reported that Henry Cutler (Macquarie University) will be the local organiser of the 2017 conference to be held in Sydney. The local conference organising committee, dates, and location are yet to be finalised.

## **Call for Expressions of Interest for AHES Conference 2018**

The president, Tony Scott, put out a call for members to express interest for hosting the 2018 conference. Those interested should get in touch with the AHES executive.

**IHEA update (Tony Scott)**

Tony Scott provided an update on activities within iHEA, and noted that a new administration has been implemented into iHEA as of this year. This new administration is likely to result in significant improvements to the organisation, with many facets of it currently under review including the constitution, board and representation, and financial organisation, with the aim to improve it for members. In addition, Denzil Fiebig has taken over the role of Chair of the Scientific Committee for the upcoming 2017 iHEA conference in Boston, and planning is commencing for papers and sessions etc.

**Any Other Business**

Jenny Watts identified that there may be upcoming spending on the website particularly to allow to the set up of electronic voting systems for the ballot for the Election of Office Bearers, which the committee will implement for 2017 onwards. David Johnston also highlighted the need to call for nominations earlier when implementing electronic voting to allow this to occur prior to the AGM.

The President declared the meeting closed at 6:50pm.

## Appendix A: Treasurers Report

Australian Health Economics Society Incorporated (Y2540337)  
 Financial Statement 2015/16  
 Prepared by Jennifer Watts, Treasurer

**TOTALS**

		<b>\$ 28,213.16</b>
<b>Opening Bank Balance (1/07/2015)</b>		
CBA at 1/07/2015	\$ 26,607.04	
Paypal at 1/07/2015	\$ 1,606.12	
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 52,759.29</b>
Interest (CBA cheque account)	\$ 14.29	
Membership - new/renewals 2015/16 (N=116)	\$ 8,250.00	
Brisbane Conference 2015 (Registrations=97)	\$ 42,030.00	
Fremantle Conference 2016 (Registrations=2)	\$ 800.00	
Monash Student Association sponsorship - AHED 2015	\$ 665.00	
University of Sunshine Coast sponsorship - AHED 2016	\$ 1,000.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>\$ 80,972.45</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>2015 Brisbane Conference Total</b>		<b>\$ 34,840.73</b>
- Venue + IT + printing + conference dinner	\$ 24,141.20	
- Keynote Travel & Accommodation	\$ 10,030.00	
- Executive dinner	\$ 669.53	
<b>2015 scholarships Total</b>		<b>\$ 1,650.00</b>
- AHES scholarships x1	\$ 400.00	
- AHES prizes x2	\$ 1,000.00	
- AHED prize	\$ 200.00	
- plaques	\$ 50.00	
<b>Other Total</b>		<b>\$ 5,215.37</b>
2016 Conference Venue Deposit (Fremantle)	\$ 2,500.00	
2016 Conference Dinner Deposit (Fremantle)	\$ 500.00	
Sundries (gifts)	\$ 279.00	
AHES Web site maintenance (Victor Lo)	\$ 353.49	
Bank Fees and Charges		
- CBA	\$ 163.80	
- Paypal	\$ 1,419.08	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 41,706.10</b>
Balance (30/06/2016) CBA	\$ 33,499.31	
Balance (30/06/2016) Paypal	\$ 5,767.04	
<b>Closing Bank Balance (30/06/2016)</b>		<b>\$ 39,266.35</b>

**Current position:**

CBA balance at 23/09/2016	\$ 97,467.33
Cheque presented 2016 Conference Venue	-\$ 33,725.50
CBA balance at 24/09/2016	\$ 63,741.83
Paypal balance at 24/09/2016	\$ 2,349.26
<b>Closing Bank Balance (24/09/2016)</b>	<b>\$ 66,091.09</b>

Sponsorship from WA Dept of Health for 2016 conference	\$ 10,000.00
Current AHES members n=170	
2016 conference attendance n=114	

## Appendix B: Excerpt from the proposed new model constitution

### Excerpt from the proposed new model constitution

(Page 15 of the public consultation draft Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016 [NSW])

#### Proposed amendments in track changes

##### 14 Composition and membership of committee

(1) The committee is to consist of:

(a) the office-bearers of the association, and

(b) at least 3 ordinary committee members,

each of whom is to be elected at the annual general meeting of the association under

clause 15. At least two of the ordinary committee members will be the local organisers of i) the annual conference and ii) the annual doctoral workshop. It is anticipated that each of these positions will be filled by a different person at each AGM.

(2) The total number of committee members is to be no more than 8.

(3) The office-bearers of the association are as follows:

(a) the president,

(b) the vice-president,

(c) the treasurer,

(d) the secretary,

(e) the public officer.

(4) A committee member may hold up to 2 offices (other than both the offices of president and vice-president).

(5) Office bearers and committee members will serve a maximum of four years (continuously) in the same position on the committee, subject to section 14.1b and 14.6.

(6) Transition to four year terms. Section 14.5 applies to those newly appointed to specific positions at the 2017 AGM. Committee members appointed before the 2017 AGM will serve from their first date of appointment in a position until four, eight, or twelve years (etc), which ever comes first after the 2017 AGM. For example, if a member was first appointed in 2010, then at the 2017 AGM they will have one year remaining in that position. If they were appointed in 2015, they have 2 years remaining in that position. If a position is unfilled after the completion of the four year term, then section 15.2 above applies, and this can include the previous holder of the position.

(6) Each member of the committee is, subject to this constitution, to hold office until the conclusion of the annual general meeting following the date of the member's

election, but is eligible for re-election, subject to 14.5 and 14.6.

##### 15 Election of committee members

(1) Nominations of candidates for election as office-bearers of the association or as ordinary committee members:

(a) must be made in writing, signed by 2 members of the association and

accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed

on the form of the nomination), and

(b) must be delivered to the secretary of the association at least 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting at which the election is to take place.

(2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the committee, the candidates nominated are taken to be elected and further nominations are to be received at the annual general meeting.

(3) If insufficient further nominations are received, any vacant positions remaining on the committee are taken to be casual vacancies.

(4) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated are taken to be elected.

(5) If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot is to be held.

(6) The ballot for the election of office-bearers and ordinary committee members of the committee is to be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the committee may direct.

(7) A person nominated as a candidate for election as an office-bearer or as an ordinary committee member of the association must be a member of the association.