



**Minutes of the Australian Health Economics Society
Annual General Meeting
5:30pm, 21st September 2017
Australian National Maritime Museum, Sydney**

(Subject to ratification at 2018 AGM)

The meeting was chaired by the President of the Society, Anthony Scott, who declared the meeting open at 5:30 pm.

Present: Rachel Brennan, Mutsa Gumbie, Bonny Parkinson, Jennifer Watts, Anthony Scott, Jane Hall, Arezou Zaresani, Emma Olin, Rachel Song, Robert Kemp, Lew Sv, Yunting Zhang, Virginia Mumford, Tracy Comans, Julie Ratcliffe, Josh Byrnes, Befikadu Wubishet, Leopold Aminde, King Wa Tam, Eng Joo Tan, Anagha Killedar, Rogan Sharma, Ross Bowman, Liz Schroeder, Denzil Fiebig, Alison Hayes, Philip Clarke, Andrew Palmer, Henry Cutler, Jeff Cannon, Martin Hensher, Barbara de Grraaff, Caroline Watts, Alison Pearce, Azadeh Abbasi-Shavazi, Kevin Staub, Lisa Gold, Peter Sivly, Susan J Mendez, David Johnston, Mohammad Pulok, Michelle Tew, Anthony Harris, Michael Shields, Terence Cheng.

Apologies: Nil

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

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

President's Report

I'm very much looking forward to an exciting conference which has been expertly organised by a team of local organisers led by Henry Cutler, Bonny Parkinson and colleagues. I'd also like to thank the members of the AHES Executive for their ongoing role in the organisation of the conference, especially David Johnston, Rachel Milte, Jenny Watts, and Barbara De Graff.

We are lucky to have secured two outstanding keynotes, Meredith Rosenthal and Marteen Lindeboom, with the assistance of sponsorship from Cochlear and Northern Sydney Local Health District. Meredith kindly agreed to be part of a roundtable held hosted by the NHMRC Partnership Centre for Health System Sustainability.

We also have another large program of papers this year, with four parallel sessions, and so thanks to David for squeezing them all in. 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.

We also have our 5th Australian Health Economics Doctoral Workshop on Wednesday, and would like to express our thanks to Barbara De Graff for organising this, and to CHERE at UTS for providing a venue. We continue to strongly 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 three scholarships this year to attend AHES, with one taken up.

This year we also award our prize for the best paper published in by an Australian-based health economist in the previous 2 calendar years, 2015 and 2016. These include all such papers published in Journal of Health Economics and Health Economics, plus other papers nominated by individuals, a total of 30 papers.

AHES Executive Activities

AHES constitution. This year we have implemented electronic voting for the first time for one of the positions on the AHES Executive. Any feedback on this process is welcome. New fixed 4-year terms for office-bearers on the AHES Executive have also been introduced, following changes to the constitution last year.

Advocacy. AHES encourages members to participate in activities that promote or increase the impact of health economics in Australia, and AHES will support them if possible. We rely on volunteers to take these issues forward, and we 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, though that can always be discussed. 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.

Requests for assistance from AHES members:

- Request from ATO for experts in relation to pricing and profitability in the pharmaceutical industry
- Senate Select Committee into Funding for Research into Cancers with Low Survival Rates. Rosalie Viney and Richard De Abreu Lourenco
- Call for panel Member for the College of Critical Care Scientific Symposium. Jenny Watts.
- Senate Enquiry into the current and future impacts of climate change. Senate Environment and Communications Reference Committee. Submission led by Martin Hensher.
- Nominee for External Advisory group for Disease Expenditure work for the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

Research Australia. This is a peak body representing those interested in health research in Australia. They lobby government and bring together the views of the health and medical research community. Henry Cutler organised a roundtable on health economics which was attended by a number of health economists, including Tony as president of AHES, and a number of key policy makers. It was a useful discussion of how health economics could play a greater role, and Research Australia are producing a summary document of the day. They could help us raise the profile of health economics in Australia and Tony will follow up these discussions to see how we can get involved and clarify what support Research Australia can provide. They could be helpful with promoting the role of health economics for the MRFF. MRFF. There will be significant further funding from the MRFF for health services research in Australia. AHES put in a submission to the MRFF for consultation on 2017-18 priorities. The MRFF will be developing its 2018-19 priorities at the end of this year, and we intend to put in another submission to the MRFF Advisory Board. In the meantime, Tony and Jon Karnon (President of HSRAANZ) are meeting with the Department of Health after the HSRAANZ conference in November to highlight the importance of health services research and health economics. Please let me know if anyone wants to help us with these activities.

IHEA. As many know, there have been many changes to IHEA, including a detailed review of its constitution, rules, and policies. Denzil noted there have been big changes at IHEA, including much more involvement of the scientific committee in the program for the conference, and the Administrative team who ran IHEA previously resigning and being replaced by another company Management Matters. Management Matters is currently administering it with Di Macintyre as new executive director. Definitely in a transition phase, with priority to have a much bigger role in supporting diversity of health economics including early career researchers and women's involvement in IHEA. One of the changes is increasing regional representation on the Board. AHES will continue to have a representative on the IHEA Board, which in the past has been Bruce Hollingsworth. At the moment, Denzil and Tony are also elected Board members. The AHES representative would be in addition to these Board positions. At the IHEA Board meeting in Boston, it

was suggested that Tony could become the AHES representative as this frees up an elected position for another region, thus helping IHEA to implement regional representation more quickly.

Finances. Jenny will do a full report, but just to note that the past 2 years we have had two international speakers which has increased costs and increased the need to secure sponsorship to cover these additional costs. Our finances are healthy, but this year we have increased conference fees slightly and also membership fees. Increased costs next year will include the re-development of the website and potentially the new newsletter (to be discussed). As you know, we have no paid secretariat (unlike many other associations) and operate largely on a voluntary basis.

Expression of thanks. I would also like to formally thank those stepping down from the AHES Executive – Jenny Watts and Henry Cutler. Jenny has made an enormous contribution as Treasurer over the past few years. This is a significant amount of work and we are very grateful. Henry Cutler has done a tremendous job as local organiser of this conference, securing the highest sponsorship ever (I think!). Thanks to Henry and his team.

Jane Hall noted that it has been excellent opportunity having to international speakers this year, however asked whether it is wise to always have two international speakers, as universities are looking for academics to be engaging more with the sector, having plenary speakers who are Australian provides an opportunity to Australian academics to be recognised for this. Denzil suggested there could be also another speaker style which isn't a plenary but could be a special invited speaker, which would provide more opportunities for Australian academics to be recognised. Lisa Gold also supported this idea for Australian invited speakers in subsequent conferences. Tony replied this isn't a fixed policy, and that the exec takes these comments on board for the planning of next year's conference.

Treasurer's Report

Jenny Watts tabled the 2016/17 financial report and presented the 2017 Treasurer's report (see Appendix A). Jenny noted that costs for AHES's main activity the annual conference have been rising steadily over the past few years, which has necessitated an increase in fees for this year's conference which will need to be maintained in coming years. In addition, conference venues are seeking more payments upfront, which necessitates having a moderate balance for the start of the new financial year to pay for these costs, prior to registrations for the conference coming through. Jenny noted that the balance at the beginning of the 2016/2017 financial year were low, and with \$79,395.66 in expenses up to 30/06/2017 we had a balance of \$28,578.17. However, this has now risen to \$71,310.67, which puts the society in a good position to engage in conference planning for next year, and to be able to upgrade the website over the next year. Jenny noted that we received increased sponsorship for this year's conference, including Platinum Sponsorship from Cochlear and Silver Sponsorship from North Sydney Local Area Health District and sponsorship from University of Queensland. This will also enable a request from Philip Clarke to sponsor an upcoming workshop on health economics in Canberra to be sponsored.

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: Anthony Scott
- Vice President: David Johnston
- Secretary: Rachel Brennan
- Treasurer: Virginia Mumford
- Public Officer: Mutsa Gumbie
- General Councillor: Barbara de Graaff and Tracy Comans

As for the roles of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Public Officer there was one candidate, according to the rules of the Society these positions were declared elected. As there were two

candidates who nominated for the general councillor role, a vote was held for this role electronically prior to the AGM. Barbara de Graaff received the most votes in that ballot. Under the rules of the society, Barbara de Graaff was elected to the General Councillor role.

The society took nominations for members for the remaining role of General Councillor (AHED Organiser for 2017). Jeff Cannon (nominated by Barbara de Graaff and seconded by Lisa Gold) was elected to the role of General Councillor AHED Organiser for 2017 under the rules of the society.

Jane Hall suggested that for the online ballot next year, more information on the reasons candidates wanted to be involved in AHES exec and what they will bring to the role.

Sponsorship strategy (Tony Scott)

Tony noted that we have had the most formal approach and successful outcome in seeking sponsorship for this year, and that the society needs to make more systematic approach in seeking sponsorship to support activities. Anyone who wants to assist with this let Tony know.

New newsletter (Tony Scott)

Tony referred to a proposal for new newsletter (Appendix B) which is to raise the profile of AHES among policy makers and decision makers and increase the benefits of AHES for members, which at the moment are mostly member focused with our communication, but could see AHES in an increasing role of advocacy of Health Economics to government, industry etc. Tony noted that we are a voluntary organisation and that we want to therefore keep costs down. Proposal is a small committee with everyone serving a few year's term to give longevity, with the members to cover a number of health economics research areas. Call for nominations from AHES members would be made. The idea of that committee would be to source content, and ensure the content has geographically balanced. Type of content is a more complex question– one idea just trawling information available on websites and collating links - at the other end is writing our own content. If this is aimed at policy makers and something half way in-between the two probably needed. Type of content could include reports for AHES, plenary speaker reports, notifications of who is having an impact on committees etc, recent grant success. Things likely not of interest to policy makers– lists of papers, methodological papers, jobs, courses etc. Need to produce an email list to distribute from scratch with the option to do this 2 or 3 times per year. Tony opened to the floor for feedback on this idea:

Philip Clarke suggested the newsletter to AHES originally, with the thought it would be an aggregation service with health economics audience rather than a targeted newsletter to policy makers, more around the email that Bruce Hollingsworth runs in the UK to inform members of other's activities. However, suggested could try both formats and then vote in the organisation based on which one is working best.

Bonny mentioned that HSRAANZ employs staff to pull together their newsletter that pulls together the newsletter and asked if there was money in the budget to employ someone for this.

Tony suggested it could be possible it is a point of priorities – if it's going to policy makers needs to be certain standard. Noted that all members are still able to distribute information about their centre activities through Rachel (secretary) to AHES members. Jenny considered it could be a cost neutral exercise if advertising space in the newsletter was sold.

AHES conference 2018

Barbara de Graaff, Andrew Palmer, and Martin Hensher have volunteered to host the 2018 in Hobart, and are currently beginning planning and seeking sponsorship.

Call for Expressions of Interest for AHES Conference 2019

The president, Tony Scott, put out a call for members to express interest for hosting the 2019 conference. Those interested should get in touch with the AHES executive.

Any Other Business

Lisa Gold – updated us on a interest group of health economists who will be working on Randomised Controlled Trials which is in the process of being formed. Not specific to AHES – but one of the purposes is to increase the prominence of health economics in health economics. Invite will be coming out to AHES members and to anyone else who wants to join.

Julie Ratcliffe – discussed concerns with the upcoming change in NHMRC funding, concerns of budget cutting in health economics after grants have been funded for clinical trials. She suggested we should work together as Health Economists to counteract this for example by a mechanism of recommending an approved rate for economic evaluation. Tony replied that as AHES we haven't talked to NHMRC from a funding perspective, but that if a proposal can be put to AHES he would be willing to consider taking this forward. Philip Clarke noted that currently a consultation of the Peer Review process is happening, with the new funding structure now is the time to feedback concerns with the process to NHRMC. Jenny suggested we should also be using this new funding structure as a chance to promote ECRs as CIs on grants.

Phillip has been approached with the Central Aboriginal Council, and is speaking to them about having a workshop from AHES for the group. Researchers in the indigenous health to engage with the indigenous people working in the field. Tony suggested to let AHES know if there was anything we could do to support that initiative moving forward.

Meeting closed at 6:30 pm

Appendix A: Treasurers Report

Australian Health Economics Society Incorporated (Y2540337)

ABN 62 310 470 803

Financial Statement 2016/17

Prepared by Jennifer Watts, Treasurer

TOTALS

		\$ 39,266.35
Opening Bank Balance (1/07/2016)		
CBA at 1/07/2016	\$ 33,499.31	
Paypal at 1/07/2016	\$ 5,767.04	
Revenue		\$ 68,707.48
Interest (CBA cheque account)	\$ 7.48	
Membership - new/renewals 2016/17 (N=128)	\$ 10,200.00	
Fremantle Conference 2016 (Registrations=108)	\$ 48,500.00	
Sponsorship from WA Dept of Health for 2016 conference	\$ 10,000.00	
Total Revenue		\$ 107,973.83
Expenditure		
2016 Fremantle Conference Total		\$ 61,161.48
- Venue + IT + printing	\$ 37,512.98	
- Conference dinner	\$ 8,358.00	
- Keynote Travel & Accommodation	\$ 14,006.50	
- Executive dinner (10 people)	\$ 1,284.00	
2016 scholarships and prizes Total		\$ 4,451.90
- AHES scholarships x2 international	\$ 3,000.00	
- AHES scholarships x2 domestic	\$ 1,200.00	
- AHED prize	\$ 200.00	
- plaques	\$ 51.90	
Other Total		\$ 13,782.28
2017 Conference Venue Deposit (Sydney)	\$ 5,250.00	
2017 Conference Catering Deposit (Sydney)	\$ 5,000.00	
Sundries (gifts)	\$ 179.60	
AHES Web site maintenance (Victor Lo)	\$ 1,540.00	
NSW Fair Trading AHES Registration	\$ 156.00	
Bank Fees and Charges		
- CBA	\$ 36.00	
- Paypal	\$ 1,620.68	
Total Expenses		\$ 79,395.66
Balance (30/06/2017) CBA	\$ 24,351.81	
Balance (30/06/2017) Paypal	\$ 4,226.36	
Closing Bank Balance (30/06/2016)	\$ 28,578.17	\$ 28,578.17

Current position:		
CBA balance at 21/09/2017		\$ 66,641.81
Paypal balance at 21/09/2017		\$ 4,668.86
Closing Bank Balance (24/09/2016)		\$ 71,310.67

2017 Highlights		
Platinum Sponsorship from Cochlear for 2017 conference		\$ 12,000.00
Silver Sponsorship from North Sydney Local Area Health District for 2017 conference		\$ 4,000.00
Current AHES members n=207		
2017 conference attendance n=140		

Appendix B:
Proposal for new AHES newsletter

Aims of e-newsletter

To raise the profile of AHES amongst policy/decision makers/health services by showcasing the activities of AHES members

To increase the benefits of AHES membership for members

To have a stronger presence nationally for advocating for health economics

Note: our existing email notifications on jobs, conferences and requests for committee membership etc would continue separately to the new newsletter, and go to AHES members only.

E-news committee.

A small committee would be convened that would include one member of the AHES Executive (committee Chair), and three volunteers from the membership (non-exec members). Each would be expected to serve 1 or 2 year terms so not everyone finished at the same time. Nominations would be called for (CVs), and members selected by the AHES Executive. The composition should cover broad health economics research areas.

The main role of the editorial committee would be to source and decide on content (see below).

Terms of reference for e-newsletter committee

- 1) To choose content for e-news.
- 2) To liaise with AHES Secretary to publish the newsletter
- 3) To ensure content aligns with the aims of the newsletter
- 4) To ensure that content has geographical balance and balance across centres/groups.
- 5) To seek approval from the AHES Executive before publication.

Type of content

Content would be largely, but not exclusively, in the form of a news aggregation service. This is where content is sourced from existing websites, blogs, and online content (eg the conversation). Content could be sourced from health economics groups directly, as some may not have a website or a website that is regularly updates.

Content would relate to the activities of members that could include:

- Links to existing activities and news from existing websites, blogs etc of health economics groups.
- Short reports from recent conferences/plenaries. For example, from the AHES conference, plenary speaker talks, other sessions that are topical and relevant to policy makers.
- Short research summaries of a few recently published papers that are topical/relevant to current policy issue (eg could be summary of Best Paper prize winner, or AHED winner, if paper is policy relevant).
- Engagement activities and impact
- Short summaries of key grant successes (NHMRC/ARC/other) – again that are topical and relevant to policy makers.
- Profiles on new senior/Professorial appointments/new centres etc

Suggestions of content to avoid that probably wouldn't be of interest to policy makers – lists of academic papers, methodological/technical papers, jobs. Courses run by members could also be advertised (as a new benefit of membership).

Distribution

The newsletter would be sent by email, and also using twitter (a new twitter account would need to be set up and used only for this purpose initially). The email would contain a list of contents/headlines that would link to more substantive content on the AHES website or other websites.

A new email list would need to be produced that included policy makers in government, private sector, NGOs, govt statutory bodies (eg IHPA, ACQSHC), MRFF Advisory Board, NHMRC/ARC CEOs, etc.

Timing.

February, June, October

Aim would be to go for the first issue in late 2017 after AHES, requiring the establishment of the editorial committee quite soon (with interim Chair to be volunteer from current Exec, pending new Exec appointments after AGM).

Budget.

ADMIN SUPPORT TO MAINTAIN EMAIL LIST (OPTIONAL)	\$1000 IN YR 1 FOR SET UP; \$500 PA EACH YEAR TO UPDATE?
GRAPHIC DESIGN/SETUP OF EMAIL (VICTOR?)	\$400?