



The Authentic Voice Of and For Victorians Who Use Drugs

NOTHING ABOUT US - WITHOUT US!

ABN: 46 114 268 362

MINUTES

**Harm Reduction Victoria (HRVic) 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) held via Zoom
Wednesday, 10 February, 2021, 4pm–5pm**

Present

Lily Fraser (minute taker)	Tony Wyatt
Sione Crawford (CEO)	Elisa Buggy
Jane Dicka	Amanda Mason
Robyn Dwyer (Board, President)	Nadia Gavin
Nick Wallis	Michael West
Nack Belzer	Elizabeth Birbilis
Katia Lallo (Board, Secretary)	Kirsty Morgan
Joel Murray (Board, Treasurer)	Deanne Buckley
Penny Hill (Board)	Ash Blackwell
Samantha Jones	Sarah Lord
Stephanie Tzanetis	Leora Robertson
Caro Weidner	Sacha
Emily Lenton (Board, Vice President)	Gary Morris
Hunter Morgan	Adrian Farrugia
Jarrold McMaugh (Board)	Sandra
Gabrielle Bennett (Board)	Nicola Indian
Peter Higgs	Marji
Ebony	Samantha Shannon
Peter M Wearne	

Apologies

None received.

1.0 Acknowledgement of Country

Robyn Dwyer (RD), Board President and AGM Chair introduced herself and welcomed all attendees to the HRVic 2020 Annual General Meeting. Robyn acknowledged the traditional owners and custodians of the Wurundjeri lands on which she was hosting the meeting and all the lands on which AGM participants

were meeting. She paid her respects to Elders, past, present and emerging and extended this respect to all First Nations peoples joining us online.

2.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None

3.0 Minutes of 2019 AGM

Motion: To accept the minutes from the previous AGM, held on 27 November, 2019 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Sam Jones

Seconded: Jane Dicka

All in favour.

RD declared the motion carried.

4.0 President's report

Robyn presented the 2019-2020 Annual report, which was, for the first time, structured using the *What Works and Why* (W3) framework for evaluating peer work. The W3 framework provides a great backdrop to showcase the importance of HRVic's work. Robyn reflected that the talented and dedicated HRVIC staff demonstrated extraordinary professional strength and leadership, responding to community needs and priorities as they emerged across the COVID-19 pandemic.

All programs adapted, finding new ways to deliver services. Working from home provided both opportunities and limitations for program innovation. Robyn thanked Sione for continuing to do an excellent job building on the commitment to peer-based work that underpins HRVic's programs.

Robyn noted that the Board are proud of, and humbled by, the staff across the past year. HRVic staff bring to life the vision of the organisation. Robyn thanked the Board for their dedication, and thanked the two exiting Board members (Simon Faulkner and Kaspian Fitzpatrick) for their expertise and commitment across the past year.

Robyn acknowledged and expressed HRVic's gratitude for the ongoing generous and respectful support we received from our funders in the Department of Health and Human Services. She thanked all our stakeholders and partners for their continuing engagement with the organisation and the community we serve.

5.0 CEO report

Acknowledgment of Country

Sione thanked everyone for giving up their time to attend today's meeting. Sione thanked the community members that HRVic serves, including volunteers and peers without whom we would not be able to deliver services. Sione thanked the staff team for their dedication and excellence.

Sione spoke to the support we received from DHHS as HRVic navigated our funding obligations across the COVID-19 pandemic, making it more straightforward to deliver services. He also noted the responsive, close-working partnerships with organisations including Burnet and ARCSHS, as being pivotal in HRVic developing program and research opportunities.

HRVic have adopted the W3 framework for our Annual Report this year. The W3 program is the work of Graham Brown and colleagues at ARCSHS (with lots of input from HRVic), and it revolves around observing how peer organisations and peer-to-peer relationships work, and mapping these findings onto broader social contexts. The framework is primarily about Engagement, Learning, Adaptation and Influence with community members and the sector. It provides evidence-based leverage which we can then utilise to influence both policy and our community for better health outcomes for drug users.

Across 2020, the Health Promotion peer network gave out over 100,000 sterile syringes. DW successfully transitioned to online trainings, and developed a series of online resources covering topics like self-care, and safer partying.

PAMS pivoted to new ways of working to support the team to working from home. COVID-19 had a number of impacts on PAMS clients, including managing pharmacotherapy dispensing during Victoria's hard lockdown, and the PAMS team adapted their focus to support these emerging issues as they arose.

The Health Promotion team undertook outreach at some of the hotel accommodation assigned to rough sleepers, in partnership with other orgs. HRVic staff across all programs were also involved with a community response at the towers during the hard lockdown, in partnership with Flat Out homelessness support and advocacy service for women who have had contact with the justice system.

Sam Jones has done an outstanding job working on critical resources, including producing a bleach resource for prisons in response to shortages.

Jane Dicka, who coordinates the DOPE program, initiated naloxone training online, opening up greater reach into regional Victoria.

Nadia Gavin doing great work with the peer-led network, sitting on a number of key advisory panels and continuing the work of legitimising and formalising the value of peers in health settings.

HRVic will be releasing our new, short term (18 month) strategic plan soon. The plan aims to increase internal capacity, strengthening HRVic so we can build for the future, including being able to attract other funding to support innovation and growth in programs.

Sione acknowledge staff member, Rob Leiterman, and Board members, Kaspian Fitzpatrick and Sly Faulkner, for their contributions to the organisation in 2019 and 2020. Sione noted the departure of

HRVic's Office Manager, Lily Fraser, who is leaving HRVic to pursue her clinical practice. He thanked her and expressed HRVic's gratitude for her outstanding contribution to the organisation.

6.0 2019-20 Treasurer's Financial Report

Joel Murray delivered the 2019-20 Treasurer's Report. They explained that the 2019-20 period has seen an increase in income, made up primarily of COVID-19-related offsets from the Australian Tax office, as well as some funding for new programs. There was also an increase in expenditure. However, this was offset by the increase in funding. Some of the increased expenditure was specifically COVID-19-related (e.g., Working from Home set ups for staff etc) .

HRVic has 4 months' funds in reserve at current expenditure levels.

Motion: That the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Report be accepted by the HRVic membership.

Moved: Jarrod McMaugh

Seconded: Gabrielle Bennet

All in favour

RD declared the motion carried.

7.0 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2021-22 FINANCIAL YEAR

Motion: That C.S. Beh Accountants should be appointed as auditors for the 2021-2022 financial year.

Moved: Katia Lallo

Seconded: Jarrod McMaugh

All in favour

RD declared the motion carried.

8.0 Board Vacancies

RD stated there were five vacant positions on the Board this year and five people had nominated. The nominees (Gabrielle Bennett, Jarrod McMaugh, Katia Lallo, Tony Wyatt, Emily Lenton) introduced themselves. Each spoke about their professional and personal background, and how they wanted to contribute to the development and sustainability of HRVic.

Nominations accepted – no objections, all in favour.

RD deemed the five nominated members as elected.

9.0 Other Business

9.1 Robyn flagged that the Board had moved to a sub-committee structure, and invited community members to contact HRVic to get involved.

9.2 Sione announced Melbourne had won the bid to host the Harm Reduction International conference, which was planned to occur mid 2021, but had now been postponed to later 2022. HRVic are a part of a consortium of organisations tasked with supporting the conference development. Sione let member and AGM attendees know that due to probable COVID-related travel restrictions, the conference will be relying on Australia and NZ attendees to support conference attendance, to ensure the conference is a success.

10.0 Guest speaker

Elisa Buggy – CEO, Flat Out

Elisa's talk focused on Flat Out's herstory and mission and the highly productive developing partnership relationship between HRVic and Flat Out.