



Harm Reduction Victoria 2021 AGM Minutes

Date/time of meeting	Wednesday 8 December 2021, 4-5:30PM	
Location of meeting	Meeting held via Zoom	
Attendees	<p><i>Board</i></p> <p>Gabrielle Bennett Jarrod McMaugh Joel Murray (Treasurer) Katia Lallo (Secretary) Penny Hill Rob Dwyer (President) Tony White</p> <p><i>Staff</i></p> <p>Sione Crawford (CEO) Bridget Hayes Carolyn Weidner Daniel Ward Jane Dicka Jess Holcombe (Minutes) Nadia Gavin Nick Wallis Sam Jones Sarah Lord</p>	<p><i>Attendees</i></p> <p>Adrian Farrugia Amanda Mason Amelia Berg Chris Gough Daniel O'Keefe Danny Jeffcote Dee Buckley Donna Williamson Ele Morrison Elizabeth Birbilis Gaby Bruning Gary Morris Heath Ross Jessie Tognolini Leora Robertson Liam Neale Michael West Paul Dietze Steph Tzanetis</p>

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Guests	Chris Gough – Canberra Alliance for Harm Minimisation & Advocacy (CAHMA)
Apologies	Emily Lenton (Vice President)
Time meeting commenced	4PM

Agenda item/topic	Discussion/Motion	Moved	Seconded	Outcome
1. Welcome & Acknowledgement	Robyn Dwyer (RD), Board President and AGM Chair introduced herself and welcomed all attendees to the HRVic 2021 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. Declaration of Conflicts of interest	None			
3. Minutes of 2020 AGM	To accept the minutes from the previous AGM, held on 27 November 2019 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	Jane	Leora	All in favour. RD declared the motion carried.
4. President's Report	Discussed Annual Report being on website this year Discussed various aspects about HRVic Thank you to staff/volunteers/partners in the Department of Health & other various organisations Recognized Leora Robertson & Steph Tzanetis for their contributions to HRVic (they left the organisation this year) Thank you to partners Thank you to fellow board members 3 outgoing board members – Emily Lenton, Gabrielle Bennett & Joel Murray			
5. CEO Report	Acknowledgement			

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	<p>Dept of Health/FUSE/AOD/BBV</p> <p>Wished everyone well; chat on Victoria/covid; acknowledged the impact on our community, healthcare providers, DH, etc.; covid has impacted how we interact with our community</p> <p>Whole staff team, 300+ volunteers have been able to engage with everyone but just acknowledging the impact of covid; we could remain open the whole pandemic, WFH predominantly</p> <p>Annual Report – online on our website</p> <p>Spoke around each program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BBV – peer support partnerships; Gilead & Burnet; Path, Path-Ex; DH funding - DOPE – Naloxone – regular training online + naloxone mailing - COMMS – social media, online engagement with PWUD - PAMS – continues to support people to remain on pharmacotherapy program despite ever increasing demand and complexities, especially the shrinking # of prescribers; in Australia, it’s an opt-in system for pharmacies and GPs, which contributes to the complexity of the program; acknowledged that DH has recognized this & is supporting PAMS on data work/prescribers/understanding the horizon of what Vic is facing in terms of prescribers/pharmacies/risk to PAMS clients - DW – covid significantly impacted events but quicky went to online trainings and volunteer engagement; able to provide service delivery when & where possible. Outreach into social hotspots e.g., Edenborough Gardens. Decline in service delivery from last year but on par with years prior. - Peer Networker Project – 26 workers who, throughout covid, provided NSP to people they know. Workers all throughout Victoria; considered to be essential services; 1320 contact; distributed 92,000 needles & syringes - FUSE – based around support for living experience peer workers in harm reduction; provided dozens of support interventions for this workforce but is developing strategic documents and training too. Ensure people who use drugs are supported and taken seriously as people who can provide training and service delivery. Taking that into the mainstream to provide support and supervision for people who use drugs and don’t want to work for a peer organisation. We are partnering with the Association of Participating Service Users (APSU) and SHARC on this program 			

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	<p>Farewells to Steph & Leora – huge thank you to them, long-term staff members</p> <p>Farewell & thank you to Lily Fraser (Office Manager)</p> <p>Huge Thank You: Victorian State Government – in particular the Department of Health branches: Public Health Division of the Prevention and Population Health Branch and the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division; Burnet Institute</p> <p>Thanks again to all our members, allies, volunteers, supporters, funders, staff team and most of all our resilient and awesome community.</p> <p>Chris Gough from CAHMA – he will be presenting on the opportunities covid presented and particularly the key role that we can play as service providers compared to more traditional AOD service providers.</p>			
<p>6. Treasurer’s Financial Report 2020-2021</p>	<p>Joel Murray (Treasurer) spoke</p> <p>Acknowledged – unceded Warangal lands in Sydney</p> <p>This is my fourth year as Treasurer of Harm Reduction Victoria, after being elected in 2018 at the Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Dr Chooi Beh - Chartered Accountant conducted the 2020/21 audit. He delivered a satisfactory report with no concerns raised regarding organisational management of finances. Harm Reduction Victoria is able to pay all of its debts as and when they become due and payable.</p> <p>HRVic has had a sound financial year showing a surplus of \$39,200. The most significant expenses were Employee Expenses - Salary and on-costs of \$990,748. This is approximately 56% of overall expenditure. In addition to these expenses, we see expenditure on Volunteer Reimbursement of \$45,931, which is an indicator of Harm Reduction Victoria’s engagement</p>	Donna	Sam	All in favour. JM declared the motion carried.

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	<p>with and valuing of our communities This increased in 2021 only because of a renaming of the item line.</p> <p>Our income total of \$1,815,783 is predominantly from the Victorian State Government (VSG). A total of \$1.6 million from the VSG includes Grants that were held over from previous years and expended and other Government Grants which we were permitted to hold over until the current financial year. We also received smaller but still significant pieces of income for various fee-for-service and other projects. We thank the VSG as well as the Burnet Institute in particular for their support.</p> <p>At the end of FY21, accumulated Funds has increased to \$708,394 in 2020/21 (2019/20 \$637,611). This is a result of merging a General Reserve account with our Accumulated Funds of 637,611 last year and our Operating Surplus of \$676,311.</p> <p>In summary, it has been another successful year for Harm Reduction Victoria and I would like to thank the HRVic staff and Board as well as our accounts consultants for their support and assistance throughout the year.</p> <p>Motion that the 2021 Financials be accepted</p>			
<p>7. Appointment of Auditors for 2021-2022 Financial Year</p>	<p>Motion to appoint CH Accountants should be appointed as auditors for 2021</p>	<p>Amelia</p>	<p>Dee</p>	<p>All in favour. JM declared the motion carried.</p>
<p>8. Board Vacancies</p>	<p>3 vacancies to fill and we have 3 people who have nominated</p> <p>Katia chaired this part, as inappropriate for Rob as she is a nominee</p> <p>Katia asked the nominees to introduce</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Gaby Bruning – been working in the sector for a while, mostly working with Aboriginal people. Believes in the rights of people who use drugs & advocating for that. We all want better and wants to be a part of change 2) Peter Higgs - ‘Growing up’ in the inner suburbs of Sydney while studying a social work degree pre NSP in the mid-1980s meant learning lots about drugs and the people who 			<p>All 3 have been nominated</p>

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	<p>use them. My first job in Melbourne in 1988 was on the North Melbourne high-rise housing estate which was ‘awash with heroin’. This led me to work with families who were greatly impacted and very confused about harm reduction. Much of my work over the past 25 years has been in and around the Footscray ‘street scene’ through a range of different iterations - with a couple of long stints in Vietnam doing HIV peer-based prevention work. Most of my recent work has a focus on hep C and changes in drug use patterns. I’m keen to give what knowledge and support I can to HRVic as I step back in my paid research work roles and look forward to the opportunities available.</p> <p>3) Rob Dwyer – she thinks HRVic is invaluable; always been her great pleasure to support this work in any way she can; happy to continue to be on the Board; background in research in drug & alcohol; currently at La Trobe as an alcohol researcher; next year taking on a teaching role – teaching public health & allied health students about drugs & harm reduction; drug user orgs need to be run by people who use them! Essential to carrying on work & fight against stigma</p> <p>The number of nominees matched the number of vacancies so given there were no objections they were all nominated.</p>			
9. Other Business	N/A			
10. Guest Speaker	<p>Chris Gough – CAHMA</p> <p>Acknowledgement – Ngunnawal People Presentation called Isolation Blues – CAHMA funded by ACT Health predominantly CAHMA is the HRVic of ACT Seen as drug & alcohol; not funded for BBV; core member of drug treatment sector; play dual role – provide drug treatment; access other types of drug treatment; role of consumer organization, advocating for person-centered programming; same principles at HRVic</p> <p>Described their programs –Drop-In, Peer Treatment Program, The Connection (the Connection very much run by the Aboriginal people in ACT; 3 Aboriginal-identified positions), Naloxone Program, Volunteer Program, Arts Project, Health Promotions, Community Events</p>			

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	<p>Scene Setting –Lockdowns occurred in late 2021 (Condamine Court, Ainsley Village) -- decisions made to lockdown community housing blocks for 14 days; in these places, marginalized communities (PWUD, co-occurring mental health needs, ageing, etc); CAHMA worked with the govt from day 1 to support these communities; CAHMA’s role: communicate with residents; frontline peer support (daily checks, provision of essential needs, worked with medical staff, provide NRT, tobacco, alcohol, <i>care</i> packages, ATOD treatment; Closed CAHMA’s office & turned it into a support & distribution hub! Helped minimize violence. Provided mobile service to provide isolation support & care package delivery; helped feed people into contact tracing system & into Ragusa Quarantine Centre; supported people with post-isolation ATOD issues & referral into rehab services</p> <p>Cases within these marginalized communities began to stabilize and then decline! Able to balance the risk to the org and help the community at the same time</p> <p>Worked hand in hand with government & other orgs that would previously not even speak to CAHMA</p> <p>Turned a crisis into an opportunity!</p> <p>Continue to work in Ragusa, supply assistance & support to people isolating in the community, partner with Directions Health Services to vaccines & test marginalized people across Canberra</p> <p>Issues Found:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of options for people dependent on methamphetamines – breaking isolation - Lack of pathways for complex polydrug users who need to be inducted onto methadone while in isolation - Difficulties with drug laws - Difficulties with punitive responses including ideology that abstinence and withdrawal should be undertaken while in isolation <p>Acknowledged the community residents within Ainslie Village & Condamine Court as stepping up and doing what they had to do to keep the rest of the community safe</p>			

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Time meeting closed	5:47PM
Chair signature	-----/-----/-----