



Minutes of the 45th Annual General Meeting
of the
Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd
(ACN 010 020 390)

Board of Directors

Waveny Holland - *President and Chair* | Richard Li - *Vice President* | Lily Feng – *Director*
| Andrew Matfin - *Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee* | Rodd Sanchez – *Director*

Executive

Paul Stadhams – *Chief Executive Officer, Company Secretary and Returning Officer*

Location

Online via Zoom
(Suite 6A 50 – 56 Sanders St, Upper Mount Gravatt, QLD, 4122)

Date and Time

Sunday, 28th May 2023 from 3pm

1. Welcome

- Welcome to all attendees and Acknowledgement of Country
- Board Members and CEO introduced to the members

2. Apologies

- Nil

3. Proxy Votes

- Nil

4. Total Eligible Voting Members

- AACMA currently has 2,049 eligible voting members
- 99 members registered with 39 members online

The Chair gave “housekeeping” information

- Meeting is being recorded.
- Raise hand function or write in the Q&A box to ask questions
- Email to events@acupuncture.org.au for any technical issues
- Members asked to give their full name and member number before asking their question
- A poll will come up on screen and members can vote and should vote within the allotted time



5. Minutes of 44th Annual General Meeting

- The Chair proposed that the minutes of 44th AGM of the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd (ACN 010 020 390), held online via Zoom and at SeaWorld Resort, SeaWorld Drive, Main Beach, Qld, on Sunday, May 29th 2022 be accepted.
- Only attendees of the 2022 AGM can vote
- Drew Matfin (1155) proposed Richard Li (942) seconded
- Motion carried to accept minutes of the last AGM

6. Business Arising

- The Chair asked if there was any business arising from the minutes of the 44th AGM.
- No Business arising or questions asked

7. President’s Report

- Report presented by Waveny Holland
- Research Centre progressing well, though website developers have had staffing issues so loading data has been difficult
- Amber Moore and WingYu Yu thanked for their work on gathering the data
- Student Attraction Initiative
- Reduction in the number of students enrolling into Chinese Medicine so in collaboration with the universities and colleges, we have a student brochure that provides information on the courses and institutions that offer Chinese medicine degrees
- Has seen 70 more AACMA student members
- Universities and colleges encouraged to open their student clinic to local high schools for work experience
- Lobbying to Government for Chronic Disease Management ongoing
- A project manager who has contacts in Canberra has been hired to manage this lobbying project
- We will go to market with an Intention to Offer to find a company that offers information and advice and have them mine information and data on acupuncture cost effectiveness
- One Voice Big Evidence project- members encouraged to support the Google Doodle push to have an acupuncture doodle on the Google Home page for World Acupuncture Day
- Information on the of treatment low back pain using the WHO ICD- codes to build a data base of 10,000 cases of low back pain treatments for the Big Evidence project

8. Financial Report

- Report presented by Andrew Matfin

| AACMA AGM Finance Report | 2021 | 2022 |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue | \$1,045,170 | \$1,111,192 |
| Expenses | \$957,732 | \$1,031,213 |
| Profit | \$87,438 | \$79,979 |



| | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------|
| AACMAC 2022 | Revenue | \$182,267 |
| | Expenses | \$103,919 |
| | Profit | \$78,348 |

- Equity as at 31st December 2022 was \$1,175,866
- No questions on the financial report

9. Acceptance of Financial Statements and Annual Report

- Drew Matfin (1155) moved Financial report be accepted
- Seconded name not decipherable carried unanimously

10. Chief Executive Officer's Report

- Report presented by Paul Stadhams
- AACMA had 1,977 members at December 31st
- An increase of 40 members since 2017
- CMBA increased 23 during the same period
- CMBA lost 140 registered practitioners in first quarter of 2023 for a total of 4,788
- AACMA gained 70 members in the first quarter of this year for a total of 2,047
- 42.50 hours of high quality CPD provided
- CPD Cards / First Aid Certificates / Insurance take an extraordinary amount of staff time
- CEO highlighted the fact that a lot of staff time is spent chasing members for their completed CPD.
- He encouraged members to complete CPD and submit their forms in a timely fashion.
- Social media campaign- A 3% increase in click throughs due to wider response to our social media campaign. This has led to 4700 clicks to our practitioner search function, suggesting that there is a greater number of appointments being made with our members.
- 50th Anniversary shirts still available
- The Chair thanked Office Staff and Board for their hard work and contribution to the running of the association

11. Notices of Motion

11.1. RESOLUTION A

Appointment of Auditors for the year ended 31st December 2023.

- Members are asked to consider and if thought fit pass the following Ordinary Resolution: That Independent Audit Services be reappointed as auditors for the year ending 31st December 2023.
- Appointment of auditors passed

11.2. RESOLUTION B

Approval of ex-gratia payments to Directors



- Members are asked to consider and if thought fit pass the following Ordinary Resolution: That pursuant to clause 5.1.3(d) of the AACMA constitution, the basis of ex gratia payments to directors for the 2023 calendar year to the 2024 AGM shall be at the Board’s discretion provided that the total payable to the directors during this period shall not exceed \$60,000.
- 2 Abstained, 44 Approved

11.3. SPECIAL RESOLUTION C – see Addendum A

Proposed Changes to the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd Constitution (2018). *Proposed motion to these changes to be moved en bloc.*

- Members are asked to consider and if thought fit pass the following Special Resolution:
- That proposed changes (items 1-20 in Addendum A) to the current Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd. (AACMA) Constitution, provided with the Notice of Meeting of Members of the Association, be adopted as amendments to the 2018 Constitution of the Association. *(If accepted the clauses within the Constitution shall be renumbered accordingly.)*
- 4 Abstained 38 Approved

Explanation of Special Resolution C

When the Constitution of AACMA was first adopted in 2018, it was accompanied by an understanding that as a living document, it would require continual review and renewal. Therefore, each year, the AACMA Board engages with people with relevant knowledge, including legal experts with a particular interest in Associations to ensure that the AACMA Constitution remains fit for purpose, incorporates Best Practice standards and complies with the Australian legal system, including the Corporations Act.

This year, the majority of the proposed changes are to better align the terms that Elected Directors serve with the needs of the Association, by providing a smoother election cycle to reduce the risk of instability and loss of corporate knowledge. This will mean that instead of the current two year term, Elected Directors will now serve for three years, which is considered current best practice by many other Associations. That will allow the election cycle to transition from two directors in Year A and three directors in Year B to a more appropriate, one director in Year A, two directors in Year B and two directors in Year C.

Recent changes to government legislations in relation to superannuation qualifications, means that AACMA has to move from a system of reimbursing directors on an “ex-gratia” basis to the payment of directors fees and superannuation.

The last major item proposed is the definition that AACMA uses for Acupuncture. This change is designed to not only better define Acupuncture in the AACMA Constitution, but also to make it clear that if you undertake the strategic insertion, penetration and manipulation of needles on the body for therapeutic benefit, that it is Acupuncture, regardless of what other name you may wish to use. This change will give us a better footing to argue this point with the Chinese Medicine Board of Australia and other government departments.

We trust that members will accept these changes as we continue to build and grow the Association into the future.

12. Declaration of Ballot

- Five nominations were received for the two vacant Elected Director positions. Conducted fully online by TrueVote, 455 members chose to cast a vote, with no reported issues.

| Nominee | Total Votes |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Li (Lily) Feng | 236 |
| Mark Vanniekerk | 194 |
| Rodrigo (Rodd) Sanchez | 189 |
| Hoc Ku Huynh | 166 |
| Eduardo (Eddie) Teijeiro | 125 |

- The Chair proposed the resolution that the two successful nominees for Elected Director be accepted in accordance with the AACMA Constitution.
- Drew Matfin Seconded
- Passed
- Congratulations to Lily Feng and Mark Vanniekerk and thank you to all nominees
- Thank you to Rodd Sanchez for his contribution to the Board

13. 2023 / 2024 Board Members

- The Chair announces the full 2023 / 2024 AACMA Board of Directors.
- Waveny Holland
- Richard Li
- Andrew Matfin
- Lily Feng
- Mark Vanniekerk

14. General Business

- The Chair called for any items of General Business.
- Q. Mark Gearing asked if there are any plans to lobby the TGA for the inclusion of FuZi.
A. No plans to lobby again for another year or 2 but still on the agenda.
- The Chair promoted AACMAC 2023 and AACMA's 50th anniversary celebrations
- Question regarding getting Medicare provider status. The Chair explained the process. Change of Government means that we have to go back to square one with the new government ministers and staff. This is an ongoing focus for AACMA.
- Question regarding helping with the student initiative.
- The Chair urged members to use the student information brochure and approach the local high schools in their area to promote Chinese medicine as a career path and offer their clinic a work experience placement.
- Li Li Thanks for the work that the Board and Staff do for AACMA members



- NDIS inclusion – the NDIS charter regards acupuncture and herbs as a health intervention they choose not include us in the NDIS because we are covered under private health funds and rebates come from the health funds.
- An NDIS recipient can choose to spend their budget on acupuncture or if the plan manager sees that as beneficial, they can set a budget to cover acupuncture treatments. An NDIA managed plan won't allow acupuncture.
- The new lobbying initiative will provide information to lobby NDIS and Veteran's Affairs
- Moxibustion promotion- difficult to get moxa pictures through the Meta algorithms
- Felipe Caudet a specialist moxibustionist will be presenting a few sessions at AACMAC. Not much available research on moxibustion to promote it

15. Meeting Closed

Meeting closed 3:46pm AEST



Addendum A

Resolutions for the proposed changes to the Australian Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine Association Ltd Constitution (2018).

Resolutions 1 to 20 (Under item 11 Special Resolution 11.3 in the Agenda)

1. That the definition of **Acupuncture**, which reads as;

Acupuncture means the therapeutic system of inserting fine needles at acupuncture points on the body for the promotion of health and for the treatment and prevention of various health conditions. The Acupuncture system includes but is not limited to:

- a) The theory and practice of acupuncture originally developed in China;
- b) The theory and practice of acupuncture developed in other countries including but not limited to Japan, Korea, Vietnam and France;
- c) Contemporary developments of acupuncture;
- d) Non-penetrative stimulation of acupuncture points by other methods.

Shall be changed to read as;

Acupuncture is the strategic insertion, penetration and manipulation of needles on the body for therapeutic benefit.

Rationale: This provides a more definitive definition of Acupuncture and all of its forms.

2. That the definition of **Term**, which reads as;

Term means a period of two (2) AGM cycles being the period for which a Director may serve.

Shall be changed to read as;

Term means a period of three (3) AGM cycles being the period for which an Elected Director may serve.

Rationale: This change is part of the proposal to better align the length of service for each Elected Director with the requirements of the Association and the new election cycle.

3. **That Clause 5.1.3, which reads as;**

The Association must not pay fees to or on behalf of Directors or a Secretary, but the Association may make payments to a Director or Secretary in good faith for:

- a) the payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred by a Director or Secretary in the performance of any duty as a Director or Secretary of the Association where that payment or reimbursement has been approved by the Board;
- b) money to any Director or Secretary, being a person engaged in any profession, for all usual professional or other charges for work done by that person or that person's firm or employer, where the provision of the service has the prior approval of the

- Board and where the amount payable is approved by the Board and is not more than an amount which commercially would be reasonable payment for the service;
- c) any salary or wage due to a Director or Secretary as an employee of the Association where the terms of employment have been approved by the Board;
 - d) an ex-gratia payment to a Director or Secretary as determined or approved by the Members in General Meeting by an Ordinary Resolution; or
 - e) an insurance premium in respect of a contract insuring a Director or Secretary for a liability incurred as an officer of the Association where the Board has approved the payment of the premium.

Shall be changed to read as;

The Association may make payments to a Director or Secretary in good faith for:

- a) the payment or reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred by a Director or Secretary in the performance of any duty as a Director or Secretary of the Association where that payment or reimbursement has been approved by the Board;
- b) money to any Director or Secretary, being a person engaged in any profession, for all usual professional or other charges for work done by that person or that person's firm or employer, where the provision of the service has the prior approval of the Board and where the amount payable is approved by the Board and is not more than an amount which commercially would be reasonable payment for the service;
- c) any salary or wage due to a Director or Secretary as an employee of the Association where the terms of employment have been approved by the Board;
- d) Directors' fees in accordance with section 10.8; or
- e) an insurance premium in respect of a contract insuring a Director or Secretary for a liability incurred as an officer of the Association where the Board has approved the payment of the premium.

Rationale: To ensure compliance with Australian Law, including Superannuation requirements, Directors are now treated as employees for the purpose of payment. This replaces the previous Honorarium system.

4. That Clause 10.1.1, which reads as;

The Board shall consist of at least five Elected Directors and a maximum of seven Directors.

Shall be changed to read as;

The Board shall consist of five Elected Directors and up to two Appointed Directors.

Rationale: This Clause is being amended to provide better clarity around the composition of the Board.

5. That Clause 10.1.2 be deleted

Rationale: This clause is not required within the Constitution.



6. That Clause 10.1.3 be deleted

Rationale: This clause is not required within the Constitution.

7. That Clause 10.2.1, which reads as;

The Board may appoint up to two additional Appointed Directors for the benefit of attracting additional expertise deemed beneficial to the effective balance of skill provided by the Board.

Shall be changed to read as;

The Board may appoint up to two Appointed Directors for the benefit of attracting additional expertise to the Board.

Rationale: This Clause is being amended to provide better clarity around the composition of the Board.

8. That Clause 10.2.4, which reads as;

To be eligible to act as an Appointed Directors, a person must not:

- a) have any business or other relationship that could materially interfere with, or could reasonably be perceived to interfere with, the independent exercise of his or her judgement in relation to the Association; or
- b) be an employee of the Association; or
- c) have been a Director under sub-section 10.4.6.

Shall be changed to read as;

To be eligible for appointment as an Appointed Director, a person must not:

- a) have any business or other relationship that could materially interfere with, or could reasonably be perceived to interfere with, the independent exercise of his or her judgement in relation to the Association; or
- b) be an employee of the Association; or
- c) have been a removed Director under sub-section 10.4.6.

Rationale: This Clause is being amended to provide better clarity for qualification of Appointed Directors.

9. That Clause 10.2.5, which reads as;

An Appointed Director shall hold office for a term as decided by the Board from the date of appointment up to a maximum of two years. An Appointed Director may be reappointed for a further one or two year term, such re-appointment to be announced with the announcement of new Board members at the AGM.

Shall be changed to read as;

An Appointed Director shall hold office for a term as decided by the Board from the date of appointment up to three years. An Appointed Director may be reappointed subject to a term limit of nine consecutive years. Such re-appointment to be announced with the announcement of new Directors at the AGM.



Rationale: This change is to ensure compliance with the Corporations Act.

10. That Clause 10.3.15, which reads as;

In the case that there are not a sufficient number of candidates nominated, the Board may fill the remaining vacancy or vacancies provided that the Elected Director is eligible for appointment and the appointment shall be passed by a resolution of at least 75% of the existing Directors for each additional Director.

Shall be changed to read as;

In the case that there are not a sufficient number of candidates nominated, the Board may appoint eligible Practising Member(s) to fill the remaining vacancy or vacancies and each appointment shall be passed by a resolution of at least 75% of the existing Directors.

Rationale: This change is to provide greater clarity around the appointment of replacement directors, should an out of cycle vacancy exist.

11. That Clause 10.3.16, which reads as;

The office of a Director shall become vacant if the Director:

- a) resigns his/her office by notice in writing to the Association;
- b) ceases to be a Member of the Association;
- c) is removed from office by virtue of the Act;
- d) becomes bankrupt or makes an arrangement or composition with his/her creditors generally;
- e) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;
- f) for more than three consecutive Board meetings is absent without prior permission of the Board;
- g) is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Association and fails to declare the nature of his/her interest in the manner required by the Act.
- h) becomes disqualified from being a Director under the Act or this Constitution; or
- i) is removed by a resolution of Members in accordance with this Constitution or the Act.

Shall be changed to read as;

The office of a Director shall become vacant if the Director:

- a) resigns his/her office by notice in writing to the Association;
- b) is an Elected Director who ceases to be a Practising Member of the Association;
- c) is removed from office by virtue of the Act;
- d) becomes bankrupt or makes an arrangement or composition with their creditors generally;
- e) becomes of unsound mind or a person whose person or estate is liable to be dealt with in any way under the law relating to mental health;



- f) for more than three consecutive Board meetings is absent without prior permission of the Board;
- g) is directly or indirectly interested in any contract or proposed contract with the Association and fails to declare the nature of his/her interest in the manner required by the Act;
- h) becomes disqualified from being a Director under the Act or this Constitution; or
- i) is removed by a resolution of Members in accordance with this Constitution or the Act.

Rationale: This change is to provide greater clarity as to why an Elected Director position become vacant.

12. That Clause 10.4.4, which reads as;

Each Elected Director must retire following a maximum of three (3) terms as an Elected Director or the equivalent of a maximum of six (6) years in office as an Elected Director and may not be elected again for a further Term.

Shall be changed to read as;

Each Elected Director must retire following a maximum of three (3) consecutive terms as an Elected Director or the equivalent of a maximum of up to nine (9) consecutive years in office as an Elected Director and may not be elected again for a further Term. For clarity, time served filling a casual vacancy under section 10.5 counts in determining the term limits in this section.

Rationale: This change is to provide better clarity around the length of service for each Director.

13. That Clause 10.4.5, which reads as;

The Board may fill an Appointed Director position which it is entitled to fill under sections 10.2 and 10.5 at any time and for such term as the Board determines. The Board may also terminate the appointment of an Appointed Director in accordance with sub-section 10.4.8.

Shall be changed to read as;

The Board may fill an Appointed Director position which it is entitled to fill under sections 10.2 and 10.5 at any time and for such term as the Board determines.

Rationale: This change is to ensure compliance with the Corporations Act.

14. That Clause 10.4.8 be deleted

Rationale: This change is to ensure compliance with the Corporations Act.

15. That Clause 10.4.9 be deleted

Rationale: This change is to ensure compliance with the Corporations Act.

16. That Clause 10.5.1, which reads as;

In a case of a casual vacancy created by the early retirement or removal of an Elected Director relating to sections 10.3.16 and 10.4.8:

- a) the Board shall notify the Members of the casual vacancy;
- b) at the recommendation of the Board, the position may be left vacant dependant on the time and cycle for elections, should it be deemed not necessary to replace a Director for a short tenure; or
- c) alternatively, the Board shall seek nominations from the Association's financial Members to fill the casual vacancy; and
- d) the Board shall make a selection from persons nominated from the Association Members for appointment to the Board and shall be entitled to rely on written member nomination form including a proposer and seconder provided by the nominating Member; and
- e) the remaining Board Members shall make the appointment from the list of members who nominated, by a resolution of at least 75% of the Board Members.

Shall be changed to read as;

In a case of a casual vacancy created by the early retirement or removal of an Elected Director relating to sections 10.3.16 and 10.4.8:

- a) the Board shall notify the Members of the casual vacancy;
- b) at the recommendation of the Board, the position may be left vacant dependant on the time and cycle for elections, should it be deemed not necessary to replace a director for a short tenure; or
- c) alternatively, the Board shall seek nominations from the Association's financial Practicing Members to fill the casual vacancy; and
- d) the Board shall make a selection from persons nominated from the Association Members for appointment to the Board and shall be entitled to rely on written member nomination form including a proposer and seconder provided by the nominating Member; and
- e) the remaining Board Members shall make the appointment from the list of members who nominated, by a resolution of at least 75% of the Board Members and the person so appointed will fill the vacancy until the end of the predecessor's term.

Rationale: This change is to provide greater clarity

17. That a Clause be added, which reads as;

Where the office of a Director becomes vacant, the continuing Directors may continue to act except where the number of Directors is reduced to fewer than 3 Elected Directors, in which case the continuing Directors may act only:

- a) to appoint Directors for the purpose of increasing the number of Elected Directors to 3 or higher;
- b) to convene a General Meeting; or
- c) in an emergency.

Rationale: This change is to ensure compliance with the Corporations Act.

18. That a Clause be added, which reads as;

Each Director is entitled to such remuneration out of the funds of the Company as the Board determines, subject to any aggregate limit on the amount of remuneration that has been fixed by the Company in general meeting by ordinary resolution.

Rationale: This change is to ensure compliance with Australian Law.

19. That Section 15 deleted

Rationale: The Association has grown beyond the position of Treasurer and as such it is no longer relevant for this Constitution.

20. That a Section be added, which reads as;

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

1.1. Definition

1.1.1. In this section 19,

- a) **AGM** means annual general meeting; and
- b) **Adoption Date** means the date on which this constitution is adopted by special resolution of the Members.

1.2. Transitional arrangements for the Board

1.2.1. For Directors in office as at the Adoption Date, for the purposes of section 10.4.4, the terms served prior to the Adoption Date will count. For clarity, this means they may not serve more than three (3) consecutive terms even if the three (3) terms are a total of less than nine (9) consecutive years.

1.2.2. Regarding the three Elected Directors elected at the 2022 AGM:

- a) One of them will retire at the 2024 AGM; and
- b) Two of them will have their term extended by one year and they will retire at the 2025 AGM.

1.2.3. The Elected Directors elected at the 2023 AGM will have their terms extended by one (1) year and will serve a three (3) year term i.e they will retire at the 2026 AGM.

1.2.4. At 2024 AGM:

- a) One of the three Elected Directors that were last elected at the 2022 AGM will retire. The Elected Directors in question will agree amongst themselves which of them is to retire at the 2024 AGM. If they cannot agree then the drawing of lots will determine which of them is to retire.
- b) Elections will be held to fill the one vacating position.

1.2.5. At 2025 AGM:

- a) The two remaining Elected Directors of those last elected at the 2022 AGM will retire.
- b) Elections will be held to fill the two vacating positions.



1.2.6. At 2026 AGM:

- a) The Elected Directors elected at the 2023 AGM will retire, but they may be nominated for re-election if otherwise eligible.
- b) Elections will be held to fill the two vacating positions.

Rationale: This section provides the roadmap for the transition from two year Elected Director terms to three and by extension, a redesign of the election cycle. Currently, the Association has five Elected Directors, with an election cycle of two directors in Year A and three directors in Year B. This change will allow for that to become one director in Year A, two directors in Year B and two directors in Year C.

This will provide the Association with greater stability and ensure the transition of knowledge from one director to the next.