



AMA

Australian Medical Association Northern Territory Inc.

32nd Annual General Meeting
Thursday 27th May 2021
2/25 Parap Road, PARAP NT 0820

MINUTES

Meeting Opened: 18:30 hours

Dr Parker thanked everyone for attending and confirmed we had a quorum.

1. Present in Person

A/Professor Robert Parker
Dr Justin Cain
Dr Jennifer Mitchell
Dr Bart Currie
Mr Arun Mahajani

Dr David Chapman
Dr Bernard Westley
Dr Howard Flavell
Dr Charlotte Durand
Ms Fiona Thomson

Present via Teleconference

Drs Kane Vellar, Stephen Gourley, Georgina Taylor and Sonja Janson attended via teleconference

2. Apologies

Dr Resy Van Beek
Dr Jackson Carroll

Dr Paul Bauert
Ms Jessie Spargo

Ms Thomson confirmed a quorum as per our current Constitution.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from the AGM held on 7 May 2020

The minutes from the meeting of 7 May 2020 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by Dr Robert Parker and seconded by Drs Chapman and Mitchell that the minutes be accepted.

Motion Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising.

5. Treasurer's Report

The year 2020 ended up as a relatively settled year financially for AMA NT Inc despite the uncertainties of the Covid 19 Pandemic. Our membership revenue has slightly increased again in 2020 to \$116,000 up from 2019 of \$109,000. Our contribution in management fees, to AMA NT Pty Ltd who manages the office in Parap, remained the same as last year at \$91,000, which has resulted in AMA NT retaining about \$10,000 in surplus for the year after other expenses. This is the level of retained earnings the AMA NT executive have been aiming for to allow for some discretionary spending. We continue to provide student grants to a total of \$1,500 for NT Medical School students. We have not had expenses related to travel and conferences in 2020 due to travel restrictions. Overall expenses and spending have been relatively unchanged again for 2020. The Federal AMA continue to subsidise AMA NT via their ownership and secretarial support of the Parap office and I thank them again for this support which is vital for our small branch to continue to advocate for Doctors, patients and the wider political agenda.

Merit Chartered Accountants have again audited the financial position of AMA NT and they have identified no major discrepancies or concerns. They continue to highlight close observation and management of our financial position relating to any impacts in our membership due to the Covid 19 pandemic. As most of our major expenses are covered by AMA NT Pty Ltd /Federal AMA, I believe we are relatively sheltered by this arrangement ourselves financially. They had no other specific issues they felt needed attention or change.

I would like to thank Kerri and Fiona once again for all their hard work in the office and in dealing with issues for members, the executive and the Federal AMA. I would like to express my personal condolences to both Kerri and Fiona in their recent bereavements. They have both lost significant family members and although not necessarily unexpected, was always going to be difficult and heart breaking.

Finally, I would like to recommend acceptance of the changes that have been proposed to the AMA NT constitution. The last updates to the constitution were done in 2006. The proposed changes are relatively minor but are valuable to reflect the Association's values and day to day running in the current era.

There were no questions of the Treasurer.

Dr Mitchell requested the AGM approve the appointment of Merit Partners for the 2021 audit. Ms Thomson advised the AGM that the Merit Partners had been our auditors for a number of years as we had been unable to find a firm that was interested in taking on our audit. It is a unique situation due to the Federal AMA being responsible for 75% of the running of the office.

The suggestion was to approach Federal AMA and see if they might have a firm that would take us on.

Action: Ms Thomson to approach Federal AMA and report back at the next AGM.

A/Professor Parker thanked Dr Mitchell for her continued support in the role.

The Treasurer's report was moved by A/Professor Robert Parker and seconded by Dr Flavell.

Motion Carried

6. President's Report

Welcome to the 2021 AMA NT AGM.

It had been a pleasure this year for AMA NT to have involvement with the medical profession and community in a range of health challenges facing the NT.

AMA NT has worked closely with the Territory's Indigenous Health organisations to hold the NT government to account in its response to COVID. One such response in respect to the easing of NT Border restrictions led to an emotional attack on AMA NT by the Chief Minister. In my response, I reminded him that we wish that he was as emotional about tobacco reform in the NT as smoking was currently killing a lot more Territorians than COVID.

AMA NT also worked with Indigenous Health organisations to present information to the Glover enquire as to whether Dan Murphy's Liquor Store should be established in Darwin. There were concerns about the effect of the additional availability of liquor on Indigenous health outcomes. Woolworths decided to abandon the Dan Murphy project as a result of the Glover enquire.

Lobbying by AMA NT has led to a study into traffic flow in the one road entry into Royal Darwin Hospital. This issue was made more urgent when a traffic accident at the entrance of the hospital led to the road being blocked for a considerable time.

AMA NT has also been active in other areas such as the damage to individuals done by inappropriate use of e scooters and the continued shortage of surgeons at Royal Darwin Hospital. AMA NT hopes to continue this lobbying into the remainder of 2021 and 2022.

I wish to pay tribute to the continuing support of the AMA NT Council in the issues above.

I would also like to acknowledge the continuing high-quality support from AMA NT staff, Ms Fiona Thomson and Ms Kerri Warthold. Both have continued their high level of service to AMA NT members despite suffering recent significant bereavements and I am sure that I join other AMA members in passing on our best wishes to them at this difficult time.

Dr Flavell thanked A/Professor Robert for all his hard work and time and effort in his role.

The President's report was moved by Dr Parker and seconded by Dr Flavell.

Motion Carried

7. Vacation of Office & Declaration of Office Bearers

Dr Parker stepped down as President and handed over to Ms Fiona Thomson, Returning/Executive Officer.

Nominations:

President	A/Professor Robert Parker	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Kane Vellar Dr Howard Flavell
Immediate Past President	Dr Peter Beaumont		
Vice President	Dr Stephen Gourley	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr David Chapman Dr Stephen Gourley
	Dr Cameron Scott	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Cameron Scott Dr Charlotte Durand
Secretary / Public Officer	Dr Kane Vellar	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Georgina Taylor Dr Kane Vellar
Treasurer	Dr Jennifer Mitchell	Proposed by: Seconded:	A/Prof Robert Parker Dr Kane Vellar
Council Members	Dr David Chapman	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Samuel Ritchie Dr Stephen Gourley
	Dr Howard Flavell	Proposed by: Seconded:	A/Prof Robert Parker Dr Kane Vellar
	Dr Georgina Taylor	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Kane Vellar Dr Georgina Taylor
	Dr Charlotte Durand	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Matthew Paltridge Dr Kristof Wing
	Dr Bernard Westley	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Sonja Janson Dr Bernard Westley
	Dr Justin Cain	Proposed by: Seconded:	Mr Mark Hamilton Dr Justin Cain
	Dr Kristof Wing	Proposed by: Seconded:	Dr Charlotte Durand Dr Kristof Wing

Dr Penny Stewart

Proposed by:
Seconded:

Dr Stephen Gourley
Dr Penny Stewart

Students

Ms Jessie Spargo
Ms Melissa Rosas

Honorary Member / Historian

Mr Arun Mahajani

Election

Ms Thomson advised that under Clause 29 of our Constitution as there are no contested positions all those nominated are duly elected.

President: There being only nomination at the AGM for the position of President, Dr Robert Parker was declared elected.

Vice-Presidents: There being only two nominations at the AGM for the positions of Vice-President, Drs Stephen Gourley and Cameron Scott were declared elected.

Secretary: There being only nomination at the AGM for the position of Secretary, Dr Kane Vellar was declared elected.

Treasurer: There being only one nomination for the position of Treasurer, Dr Jennifer Mitchell was declared elected.

Council Members: The following members were elected to AMA NT Council:

Dr David Chapman – Councillor
Dr Howard Flavell – Councillor
Dr Georgina Taylor – Councillor
Dr Charlotte Durand – Councillor
Dr Bernard Westley – Councillor
Dr Justin Cain – Councillor
Dr Kristof Wing – Councillor
Dr Penny Stewart – Councillor

DiT Reps: It was opened to the floor for the Doctors-in-Training to discuss who they would like to nominate as the formal DiT representative.

Student Rep: The Student Representative role is as an Associate Member position with no voting rights. Ms Jessie Spargo and Ms Melissa Rosas have both expressed an interest to represent the Student body in the Territory and have agreed to share the role with both being encouraged to attend and participate whenever possible.

Public Officer: Dr Vellar will remain as the Public Officer.

8. Induction of President

A/Professor Robert Parker

9. Confirmation of position of Immediate Past President

Council were concerned that Dr Peter Beaumont was unable to hold this role as he is no longer an AMA member. Ms Thomson to look into this and report back.

10. Appointments to AMA Committees

Election of Representative to AMA Federal Council

The Federal AMA has requested a representative from the Northern Territory to this position.

As has been the practice in the past the President is automatically elected to this position. Therefore A/Professor Robert Parker will remain in this role.

Election of Representative to the AMA Council of General Practice

The Federal AMA has requested a representative from the Northern Territory to this position.

Dr Taylor suggested opening up to any other GPs on Council. Ms Thomson indicated that Dr Bernie Westley might possibly be interested. Further discussions to be had.

Election of Representative to AMA Council of Public Hospital Doctors

The Federal AMA has requested a representative from the Northern Territory to this position.

Ms Thomson to confirm that Dr Stewart will remain in this role and that Dr Scott will be the alternate.

Election of Representative on the AMA Council of Doctors-in-Training

The Federal AMA has requested a representative from the Northern Territory to this position.

Dr Durand will remain in this role. Dr Cain has agreed to be the alternate.

Election of Representative to AMA Council of Rural Doctors

The Federal AMA has requested a representative from the Northern Territory to this position.

Dr Taylor has indicated she would like to move to this role if there is no other interest but could not do AMACGP as well. Further discussion to be had re this.

11. Other Business

11.1 Amendment to the 2006 AMA NT Constitution

The AMA NT Constitution has not been updated since 2006. A number of changes have been proposed to the following clauses:

Clause 9 – Application for Membership

Clause 13 – General

Clause 21 – Suspension or Expulsion of Members

Clause 48 – Notice of Meetings

Part 3 – Additional Details

These changes along with a copy of the Constitution have been made available to members.

Dr Mitchell put forward a motion to have these amendments approved and seconded by A/Professor Parker.

Motion Carried.

Action: Ms Thomson to complete the necessary paperwork and lodge with Business Affairs within 14 days

12. There being no further business the AGM closed.

Meeting closed at 18:30 hours

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A/Professor Robert Parker
President

DRAFT