

**Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting of
Parkinson's NSW 24 November 2023
Via Virtual Meeting**

In Attendance

Rachel Tanny	Mary Kay Walker	Jayne Walker-Smith
Mirelle Brockett	John Back	Fiona Jessiman
Andrew Whitton	Margaret Scott	Stuart Snell
Melanie Browning	Edward Shepherd	Thomas Balakas
Steve Schiemer	Martin Ostrowski	Mark Stewart
Gary Cowlshaw	Harley Stanton	Emily Fawbert

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Rachel Tanny welcomed those in attendance to the meeting at 9.02am. The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the Land.

2 Apologies

The Chair, Rachel Tanny noted and tabled that there were no Apologies received.

3 Review of actions from previous Annual General Meeting

There were no outstanding actions from this meeting.

4 Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting

The minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and accepted.

Moved by Jayne Walker-Smith

Seconded by Steve Schiemer

Carried

5 President's Report

The Chair presented her report to the meeting, beginning with a minute of silence to pay respect to those in the Parkinson's community who have passed in the last 12 months.

The Chair thanked CEO, Jo-Anne Reeves for her hard work and is currently on extended sick leave. The Chair, on behalf of the Board and staff, wish Jo-Anne a full and speedy recovery.

The Chair noted that this financial year was her first as Chair and thanked Steve Schiemer in his capacity for the second year as Deputy Chair. Rachel thanked Janina Jancu, Roy Wakelin-King and Graeme Cartwright for their contributions to the Board over the year.

The Chair presented the PNSW vision and purpose which focused on the strategic priorities and three enabling pillars for the fiscal year 2022/2023. It was noted that PNSW's purpose has been updated to *"We support, enable and advocate for and with people living with Parkinson's and their communities"*.

2022/2023 began our new three-year Strategic Plan which completed our transition from post-COVID recovery period to business as usual. This included all staff transitioning back into the office with balanced with some remote work, the resumption of in-person support group meetings

and education programs, further focus on driving greater advocacy and collaboration, continued our new technology roll-out for efficiency, and the growth of our service delivery across all functional areas.

Last year's audit resulted in a clean financial audit and unfortunately, we posted a net loss of \$248,129 for the Charity which resulted in a consolidated group (Charity and Trust) net loss of \$1,480,257. This loss was influenced by the Australian cost of living pressures and market jitter due to global conflicts and trade disruption affected the value of our Trust's investments. It was noted that Charitable giving was 3% higher than the previous year, however revenue from gifts and wills was 62% lower – due to external delays in the processing of bequests.

Our future priorities include financial sustainability to underpin service delivery, advocacy targeting State and Federal governments for a greater recognition of the Parkinson's community, engaging more closely with our community of people living with Parkinson's and caregivers, and forming new alliances and partnerships.

The Chair thanked the current and past Board Members, the Senior Leadership Team members, Support Group Leaders, and participants who have continued to offer mutual support during trying times throughout the year. The Chair thanked the staff for their commitment in maintaining a high standard of services in a very challenging year and their support of Mary Kay Walker.

6 CEO Report

Acting CEO, Mary Kay Walker presented her report to the meeting.

Our financial performance in fiscal year 2022/2023 again presented a challenging operating environment. The ongoing cost of living crisis made it a challenging year for households, businesses and not-for-profit alike. Parkinson's NSW held expenses down by 9% year-on-year, however, reduced fundraising revenue resulted a loss of \$248,129.

The major contributing factor to this loss was from repeated external delays beyond the control of the organisation. This resulted in a 62% cut anticipated in bequest revenue of processing gifts in wills were delayed, pleasing fundraising from other sources was up 3%.

As in prior years, Parkinson's NSW continues to advocate for new revenue sources and sustainability targeting state and federal governments, collaborating with Fight Parkinson's (previously Parkinson's Victoria) to submit a pre-budget proposal to the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care, and negotiated directly with Local Health Districts in NSW around the co-funding of our community-based Parkinson's specialist nurses.

Parkinson's NSW is a service delivery organisation that supports and enhances wellbeing through person-centred services such as:

- 1800 HealthLine which is staffed by 2 Parkinson's Registered Nurses with an average of 30 years of experience for each nurse and calls increased by 7% year-on-year
- PNSW has Parkinson's Specialist Nurses in Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Tweed and Goulburn, with Hornsby and Shoalhaven having negotiations ongoing for the reinstatement of a nurse in these areas
- Our two counsellors conducted 765 individual face-to-face counselling sessions which was an increase of 37% year-on-year, 260 groups session and participated in 63 education sessions indicating a full recovery from post-COVID period
- Our Education delivery returned to full face-to-face training throughout NSW. Our two online learning modules developed in FY22 was completed to up-skill more than 260 Allied health professionals in 2022/2023, allowing us to identify and recommend more practitioners as preferred providers for people living with Parkinson's. Work began on *Module 3: Exercise* with guidance from our Education Advisory Committee
- PNSW is currently a registered service provider for the NDIS and we successfully navigated the challenging 2023 reassessment audit in order to maintain our registration. This year our

NDIS Advocates successfully guided 113 people through the application process for NDIS funding and this brings us to a total of 642 people to gain NDIS support in the past five years

- Support Groups have now fully resumed meetings with 63 face-to-face support groups, five ongoing Zoom-based support groups and four Facebook Groups. It was noted that 74% of support groups are based in regional and rural areas
- Digital and Marketing underpins the process of the organisation through presentations, publications and information through digital and social media outreach to a diverse range of stakeholders in our community. FY23 was an exceptionally busy year for this team with an increase of 38.7% increase in news readership on our website, and reached 1.5 million people across all touchpoints. Mary Kay thanked all those who have raised money for Parkinson's NSW over the year in the digital fundraising campaigns

Mary Kay thanked the Board and Staff for their support.

7 Finance Report

The Chair of the Finance Risk and Audit Committee, Andy Esteban presented the consolidated Finance Report for FY23 for Parkinson's NSW Limited (Charity) and the Parkinson's NSW Trust (Trust).

Andy noted that the Charity has been consolidated with the Trust and as noted in the President's Report that audit by StewartBrown resulted in an unqualified audit report of the accounts for the Charity which made a loss of \$248,129 for the year and a consolidated group recorded a loss of \$1,480,257. The Parkinson's NSW Limited loss was 56% lower than the previous year, however the consolidated loss was 22.5% higher than the previous fiscal year.

There are a number of factors that have contributed to this loss, including bequests which Parkinson's NSW traditionally and continues to rely on. Actual bequest revenue received during the year was a massive 62% lower than the previous fiscal year which affected the not-for-profit sector.

Andy noted that bequests together with general issues of sustainability and low levels of government funding are all ongoing key focus areas for the board and management.

Andy was pleased to report the conscientious efforts by management and staff managed to contain expenses 9% lower in level than the prior fiscal year. Fundraising from sources other than bequests yielded an increase of 3% from the previous fiscal year.

Market conditions were also affected by the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine for not-for-profits generally and company investments, the lingering effect of COVID-19, and the widespread pressures of cost of living also contributed to the loss of both Parkinson's NSW and the Trust this fiscal year.

Andy thanked Management and staff at Parkinson's NSW as they work hard to balance costs with delivery of essential services with minimal assistance from the government. The Board and FRA Committee are very conscious of this balancing act is having on both the financial performance and staff morale.

Both the Board and FRA Committee are continuing to closely monitor both demand and financial pressures, and supporting management in its ongoing advocacy campaigns and alliances with other organisations with shared objectives and challenges. They will also continue to monitor, make prudent adjustments to the financial forecasts particularly around our strong dependence on bequests revenue and the need for the government to step up and contribute to the services we provide.

Andy thanked his fellow directors on the FRA Committee and the Board as a whole, and best wishes to management and staff of Parkinson's NSW for their dedication and service delivery for the Parkinson's community of NSW.

- 8 Questions from Membership to Directors
The Chair handed the meeting to Mary Kay Walker, Company Secretary who chaired the session.

It was noted that there were no questions submitted via email prior to the meeting and that there were no questions submitted from the online platform.

Mary Kay handed the meeting back to Chair.

- 9 Resolutions
The Chair announced that the online voting of the Resolutions will now be conducted and thanked Thomas Balakas from OGL Group, for acting as Returning Office for this process.

The Chair announced following an online ballot and combined with proxy forms received, the result was:

Resolution 1 – Appointment of Director

Subject to there being any board positions available under the prescribed maximum of nine board positions, to consider and, if thought fit, elect Mr Stephen Schiemer as a Director.

Result: 59 votes in favour 1 votes against

Resolution 2 – Appointment of Director

Subject to there being any board positions available under the prescribed maximum of nine board positions, to consider and, if thought fit, elect Dr Martin Ostrowski as a Director.

Result: 60 votes in favour 0 votes against

Therefore, both resolutions were carried.

- 10 Reappointment of Auditors
The Chair advised the meeting the Board of Parkinson's NSW have recommended the reappointment of StewartBrown as Auditors for the 2023/2024 Financial Year.

The Chair resolved that StewartBrown be appointed as Auditors and asked Members to cast their vote.

On completion it was moved that StewartBrown be appointed Auditors for 2023/2024 Financial Year.

- 11 Meeting close
The Chair thanked members for their participation in the meeting and the meeting closed at 10.23am.

Signed:

Rachel Tanny
President

Mary Kay Walker
Company Secretary