

**Australasian Association of Bioethics and Health Law
AGM Minutes**

16:15 (Eastern Australian Daylight Savings Time) Monday 20 November 2017

**Chair; Bernadette Richard, (President)
Minute Taker; Camilla Scanlan (Treasurer)**

In Attendance;

Bernadette Richards (President), Camilla Scanlan (Treasurer) Stacy Carter (Stream Co-Leader), Andrew Crowden (Stream Co- Leader), Cynthia Forlini (Stream Co- Leader), Henry Kilham, Julie Letts, Wendy Lipworth (Committee Member), Alastair Macdonald, Ros McDougall (Stream Co-Leader), Ainsley Newson (retiring Stream Co-Leader), Linda Sheahan, Morgan Carpenter, Vicki Xafis (Stream Co-Leader)

Proxies had been received from: Rachel Ankeny (Vice President), Lynn Woodward (Secretary), Mal Parker, Angus Dawson (Stream Leader), Neil Pickering (Committee Member), Zarrin Siddiqui, Lynn Gillam (retiring Committee Member), Jaklin Elliott (incoming Committee Member), Wendy Rogers, Helen Smith

Apologies had been received from: Ian Kerridge (retiring Committee Member), Jenny Jones, Michael Briffa, Clare Delany (incoming Committee Member), Nikola Stepanov (Committee Member), Cameron Stewart

1. Opening and Welcome

Bernadette Richards welcomed members. She clarified that the AGM was usually associated with the AABHL Conference, however as there was no 2017 Conference, by holding the AGM at the end of the Clinical Ethics Stream workshop, we were able to maximise resources.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The Minutes of the previous meeting (November 2016) were accepted as a correct record, moved by Andrew Crowden and seconded by Wendy Lipworth.

3. President's report

Bernadette discussed briefly how the major goal for 2017, to enliven the AABHL streams, had been a great success and she thanked everyone who had been involved. Workshops had been held by the following streams; Public Health, Health Law, Empirical Bioethics, Clinical Ethics and Teaching Ethics. The Workshops helped to establish networks and will hopefully result in joint publications. It is hoped that the momentum generated by these workshops will be maintained and that future conferences will be able to schedule time and space in their programmes dedicated to Stream activities or themes. It is also hoped that one of the outcomes of holding Stream workshops might be an increase in AABHL membership.

4. Secretary's report

On behalf of Secretary Lynn Woodward, Bernadette reported that there had been 5 committee meetings held this year via teleconference. The main points discussed in the meetings had been around the Streams activities, planning for future conferences, the resolution of issues with Australian Securities & Investments Commission (*ASIC* is an independent Australian government body that acts as Australia's corporate regulator), and general business.

5. Treasurer's report

Treasurer Camilla Scanlan reminded the meeting that the audit for the financial period 2016-2017 had been emailed to members along with Agenda document for this meeting. As there were no questions related to the audit, Camilla then provided a report of the current (Nov 2017) financial position, which she described as favourable and stable.

Camilla was able to advise the meeting that the potential to offer a limited number of carer's bursaries to attend the 2018 Conference, would be discussed at the Committee level.

6. Membership report

The Membership Report provided by Camilla demonstrated that membership levels remain stable overall, although it was noted that the number of student members had declined. Camilla related this to the usual uptake of membership leading up to AABHL Conferences, then attrition 12 months later. This issue was addressed later in the meeting under Streams – Students/Early Career Researchers.

7. Conferences

2018 AABHL conference will be held in Townsville, Queensland, and will be held to run consecutively with the AEN conference. Bernadette advised the meeting that negotiations were underway for sponsorship of the Kirby Oration at the 2018 Conference. Advice received from members of the local organizing committee was that the planning of the 2018 Conference was on track.

Agreement had been reached to hold the 2019 Conference in Dunedin, New Zealand. Dates are yet to be finalized.

Bernadette noted that the AABHL Conference had historically been held over 2 and half days but in recent years had been reduced to 2 days. She expressed her hope that future conferences would return to 2 and half day programmes with a view to facilitating theme-specific activities. It was also suggested that stream themes could perhaps be indicated in the programme to facilitate planning by conference attendees.

8. JBI Matters

Bernadette discussed the JBI and noted that the board of the journal has signed a new contract with Springer Publishing.

Continuing concerns with regard receipt of the issues in a timely manner were noted. Members with any concerns should contact Bronwen Morrell bronwenmorrell@gmail.com

9. AABHL streams, activities and membership

AABHL has been pleased to provide funding (approximately \$500) for workshops of each Stream during 2017.

Both Public Health & Health Law Streams have previously reported on their workshops held during 2017 as being very collegial and successful.

Empirical Bioethics Stream held its inaugural workshop meeting on 13 November 2017. Approximately 20 people attended.

Clinical Ethics Stream held its workshop immediately preceding the AGM on 20 November, with approximately 30 people.

The AABHL Executive Committee looks forward to receiving a short report from the Co-Leaders of each of the Empirical Bioethics and Clinical Ethics Streams, in due course.

Andrew Crowden reported that the 1 day workshop planned for Research Ethics Stream had to be disbanded due to venues/availability/dates clashing with Australasian Ethics Network (AEN) activities. Co-ordination with AEN and the local organizing committee of the 2018 Conference is ongoing and it is anticipated that agreement can be reached so ensure that the relevant meetings can occur consecutively in 2018 in Townsville.

Teaching Ethics Stream – Bernadette will contact Drew Carter and David Hunter regarding activities in 2017 – following the meeting it was confirmed that a workshop had been held in September. A report will be requested.

Cynthia Forlini, Co-Leader with Jonnie Kennedy of the newly formed Students and Early Career Researcher Stream (S/ECR) provided data around the responses to their call for expressions of interest. Cynthia and Jonnie have invited 2 others to join a working committee and together they plan to hold a workshop for interested delegates at the 2018 conference. Cynthia called for AABHL members who are interested in mentoring students & ECRs, or who are themselves interested in being mentored, to contact her Cynthia.forlini@sydney.edu.au HEAL (Health, Ethics and Law) discussion group remains very active in Queensland. The group meets monthly with an average of 20-30 people attending, but as many as 100 have attended depending on the speaker and the topic. The AABHL is indebted to both QUT and UQ for their continued support of this important group that is obviously meeting a need in the health law and bioethics community.

10. Any other matters

The AABHL Twitter account is currently being run by Bernadette, however this is no longer feasible. Bernadette called for members to become involved and take over the account, preferably several people on a rotating roster, with one to oversee. Those interested to contact Lynn Woodward (secretary@aabhl.org).

11. Election of committee members

Ian Kerridge and Lynn Gillam were thanked for their enormous contributions to AABHL over many years. It is with regret, but in the knowledge of the many other demands on their time, that their reluctance to re-stand for election to the Committee has been accepted.

The Committee was delighted to welcome (in absentia) Jaklin Elliott and Clare Delany as AABHL Committee members.