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| QDN  ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  2021 | QDN logo in dark blue. Queenslanders with Disability under logo. Light blue Nothing About Us Without us  **ACN 161 701 944** |

Date: Saturday, 19 February 2022

Venue: Broncos Leagues Club

98 Fulcher Road, Red Hill

Time: 10:15 am to 12:30 pm

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OPENED AT 10:20 AM**

Members Present: as registered/signed in (online and in person)

Guests, Observers and Meeting Support Present:

QDN CEO, Paige Armstrong

QDN Exec and Staff: Michelle Moss, Troy Wolski, Olivia Spadina, Natalia Freitas, Stephen Coulter, Louise Pollard, Shelley Birrell, Talulah Malcolm, Ned Sparksman, Suzanne Mincher, Cindy Hannam

Personal Care Workers - Maree Fairbanks and John Anthony

Sandy Clark, Real-Time Captioning

Kathryn Knight, Auslan Interpreter

Ben Crompton, Zoom Event Manager, Ben Crompton Design

Michell Hourigan, Camera and Technical equipment, MIRROR HOUSE MEDIA

Christos Papadopoulos, Photographer

Peter Gesch, Haywards Chartered Accountants

Geoff Rowe, CEO Aged and Disability Advocacy (ADA), Australia

The Honourable Jonty Bush, MP Member for Cooper

The Honourable Steve Andrew, MP Member for Mirani

Dr John Chesterman, Public Advocate Queensland

Minister Craig Crawford (by video presentation), Queensland Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (supported in person by Johnny B)

Kelly Beckitt, CEO SUFY Speaking Up For You

Scott Brown, Director, Research and Advice, QCOSS

Matilda Alexander, QAI

Melissa Fox, Health Consumers Queensland

QDN Board of Directors PRESENT

QDN Board Chair, Des Ryan,

Deputy Board Chair, Sharon Boyce

Audit and Compliance Committee Chair: Gary Matthews

Nominations and Performance Committee Chair: Jane Britt

Directors: John McPherson, Stacy Miller, Peter Tully

Company Secretary – Colleen Papadopoulos

**Apologies – Invited Guests**

The Honourable Dr Amy McMahon MP Member for South Brisbane

The Honourable John Paul Langbroek MP Member for Surfers Paradise

**Apologies – Members**

Ted Jones

Heather Livingstone

Ilan Ivory

Peter Gurr

Shawn Pua

Karin Swift

Rowan Lymbry

Judy Richardson

Alexander Cole

Charmaine Idris

Tina Moore

Wesley Walker

John O’Shea

Sharon O’Shea

Josie McMahon

Margaret Rodgers

Di Toohey

Michelle O’Flynn

Warwick Best

Nick Darby

Estelle Walker

Paul O’Dea

Peter Yeo

Peter Parkes

Quorum Achieved.

**OPENING FORMALITIES**

Des Ryan, Chair QDN Board declared AGM open at 10.20

**Acknowledgement of Country – by Willie Prince**  Observed.

1**. Conflict of Interest Disclosures**

None disclosed.

2**. Minutes of previous AGM** – tabled to the meeting. Minutes presented by

Company Secretary, Colleen Papadopoulos QDN Board of Directors

*Resolution:* The Minutes of the AGM of Queenslanders with Disability Network Inc held on 17 October 2020 be accepted as a true and fair record of meeting

Moved: John MacPherson Seconded: Rachel Matthews

Opposed: None Abstaining: Carried by Show of Hands

**BUSINESS ARISING – SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS**

**3.**  **LAUNCH of QDN Peer Leadership Framework & Co-Design Principles**

The Chair led in the launch of the QDN Peer Leadership Framework & Co-Design Principles, introducing Minister Crawford who introduced the new framework and co-design principles by video presentation.

Minister Crawford acknowledged the traditional owners of all the lands on which members were joining the meeting and praised the work and motto of QDN in its twenty-year record of advocating and influencing policy development through co-design and inclusion. Minister Crawford recognised the ‘*concept of co‑design and the principles behind it, authentically respect rights, resilience and collective action, will be a real asset to growing a Queensland inclusiveness, including our role in delivering the new Australia's delivery strategy’* indicating the importance of *‘bringing the experiences of our community to the forefront to enable people with disability to be the leaders of their own future’*. He voiced support for the Peer Leadership Framework and co-design Principles and pledged his dedication and commitment to ‘*uplifting the voices of people with disability to drive change that delivers quality, rights and inclusion’.*

The Chair then introduced Jonte Bush, MP and Member for Cooper. Ms Bush thanked QDN for the invitation to present at the QDN AGM, and to represent Minister Crawford in person to launch the Queensland Disability Network our own voice leadership principles and framework, QDN's co‑design principles and processes, stating; ‘*these documents will provide a visible, accessible pathway for leadership by those ‑ by and for Queenslanders, with a disability*’. Ms Bush made the point that; *‘if content is king then context is queen. Context provides the texture, the colour, the flavour, sentiment and importantly connected us to why we do what we do. These documents really underscore the importance of drawing upon the experiences of our context experts in this space’*.

**ORDINARY BUSINESS – REPORTS FOR THE 2021-22 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**4. Chair and Directors Report: Des Ryan**

The Chair presented his report of the successes and challenges of the year previous, a year still challenged by successive COVID strains and outbreaks.

‘*So what's happened during the year? Some things stand out during the year. Mostly the work that the members have been doing; the way they are getting involved… Our Stand With Us campaign got a continuation of funding for independent disability advocacy which is important for everyone across the State… (Our) Disability matters state election platform and advocacy tool‑kit, the NDIS independent assessments were cancelled after our advocacy and a lot of others. And, of course, advocacy works when we get other people to help us; and we are involved as a community/services’*

The Chair stated that *QDN continues to show leadership of people with disability on COVID, digital skills, NDIS and pioneering/co‑design with a lot of these platforms that we put together.*

The Chair acknowledged the importance the Disability Commission in *‘ensuring that experiences of people with disabilities are listened to; and hopefully we live lives free of violence and being forgotten and abused in a way by being forgotten*. The Chair acknowledged John McPherson in the Building Better Homes Campaign, along with the delivery of QDN initiatives such as the Disaster Recovery, the Emerging Leaders Program, commending QDN for its 20th year and the welcome honour of welcoming QDN’s very first Patron, Her Excellency, The Honourable Dr Jeanette Young, Governor of Queensland. The Chair summed up that ‘This will raise our profile and show that our work is mainstream.’

The Chair went on to mention all the work and achievements of the previous year, and to thank all the staff and board, making special mention of the Deputy Chair, Sharon Boyce, and the chairs of the board’s two committees, Jane Britt and Gary Matthews. He mentioned the strategic plan having been finalized in November 2020; *‘developing and refining our mission statement and strategic goals…developing leadership, increasing capacity based on the lived experience of people with disability.’*

The Chair praised the dedication and contribution of the members, including Matt McCracken, turning up on a hot day and contributing with our work, and everyone who made the commitment to attend in person or online. The Chair thanked and acknowledged our special guests and our partners, and the hard work of the executive and staff.

**5. CEO’s Report: Paige Armstrong**

Ms Armstrong commenced by acknowledging the traditional owners and elders past, present and emerging, and thanked Willie Prince for his great welcome to country. Ms Armstrong acknowledged and thanked the many special guests who have honoured us with their attendance, including the local member Ms Jonte Bush, and the very recently appointed Public Advocate for Queensland, Dr John Chesterman, Scott with QCOSS and Geoff with ADA.

Ms Armstrong shared a long list of successes in the face of continuing challenge and change, the need to excel not only ‘pivoting’ but pirouetting with agility, innovation and skill. She acknowledged the projects won with project partners QCOSS and ADA, and the advocacy allies Queensland Advocacy and Speak Up for Yourself, welcoming Matilda Alexander and Kelly Beckitt.

Ms Armstrong stated: ‘*In talking about highlights for the year, I suppose one of the things I would like to say are the campaigns that our organisation Queenslanders with Disability Network either led or have been part of in the last 12 months; towards influencing big picture change; getting change happening, so that people with disability around the State, their families and our supporters get better services/programs, get better things happening*’. These include the Building Better Homes campaign, Every Australian Counts and the Stand With Us campaign. QDN have been doing work on-the-ground and three jurisdictions interstate to assist people with disability, their families and supporters and emergency response services to develop Disaster Recovery and Emergency Response planning.

During the prolonged COVID years where increasingly we have moved to technologies to work and access services and daily needs, QDN has focused on digital access and inclusion to get people with disability adept with technologies and digital literacy. Ms Armstrong stated, ‘f*or the first time, we now see a more dedicated advocacy focus and funding for First Nations people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children and young people’.*

Ms Armstrong highlighted the many successful programs, campaigns and initiatives in the 2021-22 year, and stated*; ‘Other work that we have been focussing on this year is something that is absolutely passionate and dear to my heart; and that is the Targeted Outreach Program. To date, the stats that I got when I came into the room, in the last 12 months that we have supported over 1,700 people to get plans and to get support through the NDIS. The icing on the cake was the state government who stepped up and funded an assessment and referral team that is able to assist with that detailed documentation and the assessment work required to get into the scheme’.*

Ms Armstrong ended by extending thanks and recognition to the staff and the board for their perseverance, agility and skill in meeting challenge with innovation and tangible opportunities and outcomes for people with disability in our state.

Ms Armstrong then presented a Year in Review 2020 to 2021 highlighting ‘our people and our vibrant thriving network, the Disability Matters campaign, the My Transport Matters, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland’.

Ms Armstrong then presented Mr. Geoff Rowe, CEO Aged and Disability Advocacy (ADA) who provided members with an account of the year’s progress and challenges hosting the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Disability Network of Queensland, as well as highlighted achievements as one of the partners Targeted Outreach Project.

**6. Financial and Auditor’s Report:** Haywards Chartered Accountants

The Auditor, Peter Gesch, Haywards Chartered Accountants, presented the Auditor Report for the 2020-21 Financial Year, stating opinion that the financial report of QDN has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the ACNC Act 2012 including given a true and fair view of the QDN’s financial position as of 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.

Auditor Peter Gesch declared an Unqualified Report.

Presenters remained in front and standing to field questions from Members about their reports. These included largely questions of content and detail, particularly regarding financial outcomes.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE REPORTS AS PRESENTED**

*Motion:* To Accept and Approve the Chair’s Report, the CEO’s Report

Moved: Gary Matthews Seconded: Rachel Matthews

Carried by Show of Hands None Against. None Abstaining.

*Motion:* To Accept Auditor’s Report as presented, and to continue with the current auditor (Haywards Chartered Accountants) for the FY 2020-21

Moved: Matt McCracken Seconded: Rachel Matthews

Carried by Show of Hands None Against. None Abstaining.

**QUESTIONS /VOICES FROM MEMBERS**

Question time was very enthusiastically participated in amongst all the members and guests both online and in person.

The questions and answers demonstrated the members wide array of knowledge and interests in all areas of policy, systems and programs that have effect on their lives.

**Amongst these, the issues most pressing are:**

EMPLOYMENT

* There is need for the Commonwealth, because it is responsible for employment, and NDIS to do more about employment for people with disability because it is the key driver of social change and allows people to have economic independence. I know this from my own lived experience.
* There is need to develop an evidence base that goes beyond policy and procedure to help people with disabilities function in workplaces and contribute in a way that's appropriate for them, and shows their best skill‑set, then we are still back at square one; because ultimately if we are not feeling supported, included and I guess nurtured in a workplace, what happens is that we retreat. When we retreat, we don't become a part of our community and the cycle continues.
* My own life, I can only say it is a social network that you have in later life, that is only there because of those people you went to school with. It's part of employment but it's even more important because the social network operates a worker; it operates for the rest of your life.
* I don't like to be put in jobs where they get paid half just because of my disability, because I am a bit slow with my work productivity. I am qualified at university as well. I feel like there's a bit more value required in disability employment; and in paying people the right wages, fair wages.
* We do hope that the government will commit and make the pledge to the recommendation from the Royal Commission as well, because employment has still got a long way to go for people with disabilities; and we do hope that they hear all the evidence/stories at the Royal Commission and take that on board
* I think one of the major challenges we have at the moment is the casualisation of our workforce; and that is to do with recruitment companies not taking on people with disability. And I am a living example of that – for people who have a sensory loss its 70 per cent unemployment in our sector at the moment.
* I have been following through social media and online the value 500 companies; and they are companies that have stated a position on employing people with disabilities and developing inclusive cultures around the world; and they are led by their CEOs to do this thing. Richard Branson's version. As far as I can tell, there's only nine companies in Australia that have made similar commitments; Telstra being one of them.
* Queensland Government have arranged Karen Hooper from the Productivity Commission to write a report on the NDIS; and she had some really good suggestions on employment that would have seen a lot of work with employers, to show them why they should be employing people with disabilities. If those recommendations were put in place, it would make a huge impact, I am sure; because it really is the myths that employers have that hold us back with employers.

NDIS, POST COVID RECOVERY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT PENSION /NEWSTART

* Now we are in postCOVID recovery and my concern is we need a resurgence of community inclusion and school inclusion as part of that; and inclusion in the workplace as part of that; and also I think it's been demonstrated through the pandemic that the disability support pension is not enough to live on. And improvements in the benefits that we receive from Centrelink.
* I think another thing to put on the agenda for this year is the NDIS as a whole; funding packages are being cut. And I would like to see that as part of whatever work we do with the election. Thank you.

INTEGRATED SCHOOLS

* I would want to suggest that we try and get some sort of commitment into inclusion in mainstream schools; rather than continuing to build special schools; because that segregation is a ‑ like, the continuing lack of progress on desegregation on schools, for instance, on the basis of disability, is an ongoing violation by the Federal government of its CRPD commitments.

TRANSPORTATION SUBSIDY SCHEME

* What happens to those people who do get the NDIS but don’t get a taxi subsidy? I got a letter from the Queensland Government Department of Transport telling me I won’t get the Transport Subsidy Scheme anymore after 31 October 2022 because I am an NDIS participant and get a transport subsidy with NDIS
* The issue from the participant in the scheme's point of view is that the TSS was originally initiated because people did not have access to private/public transport system infrastructure; and for many people, particularly in regional Queensland, this will be the ongoing issue for some time
* Transport is a significant, fundamental need; and a number of us work in Brisbane metro Project, the Cross River Rail project, and other access working groups within government to provide advice on design and implementation of these major infrastructure projects in the wake of the debacle that was the NGR for the trains. So transport will be an issue for some years to come.
* I went up to do a session at Atherton that's 58 kilometres away, as I said; it cost me $400. Now, that come out of my pocket. So as far as I am concerned if, we are going to discussed, let's forget about talking Townsville/Townsville. Let's bring those discussions right up to Thursday Island and Normanton and all this up here; because we are the ones that are really being discriminated against.
* The TSS fiasco has been an unintended consequence of the NDIS; as there has been many. And we still need to thrash this one through; because people are going to be strictly disadvantaged if they do leave the TSS card. This is a major issue and there are no good answers yet

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

* It would be good to get an update at some point on at the moment, as far as I am aware, only two new generation trains can be modified; and the government have said to me on all occasions, "COVID19 delay". And I think if we continuously let them get away with it, then it will become their stock standard response. You know, they mucked the issue up and we need to hold them accountable

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**7. Ordinary Resolution to extend the term of Appointed Director, Stacy Miller**

*THAT, with the close of this Annual General Meeting, it is proposed to extend the term of appointment for Appointed Director Stacy Miller to the commencement of the 2023 Annual General Meeting*

The vote was by raise of hand and passed by an overwhelming simple majority.

The members were advised that an ordinary resolution is by a simple majority of 50% or more, consistent with the rules for ordinary resolutions of Sec 9 in the Corporations Act (Cth) 2001

**9. Closing Remarks and Acknowledgements**

The Chair thanked the members and guests for their active participation and all agreed that it was a good meeting and a great conversation. The CEO thanked everyone and invited the members to continue their conversations over lunch.

**The QDN Annual General Meeting was declared closed at 12.45 PM**

Confirmed as a true record

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Chair QDN Board of Directors Date