

1 Attendees

Sharon Boyce (Chairperson – via Zoom), Gary Matthews (Deputy Chairperson),
Jane Britt, Talitha Kingsmill, Des Ryan, Peter Tully and Nerine Williams (Directors)
Stacy Miller (Appointed Director retiring at the commencement of the meeting)
Peter Gesch (Haywards Chartered Accountants – QDN auditors)
Michelle Moss (Chief Executive Officer) and other BRQ staff
Mark McKeon (Company Secretary)
Other QDN life and ordinary members, supporters and guests as listed in the
Attendance Register
Danielle & Cornelia (SWITC – Auslan interpreters)
Sandy (Reporters Ink – transcription services)
John & Gamu (Staffing Options – personal care workers)

2 Welcome

Gary Matthews (Deputy Chairperson) welcomed those present, as technology problems were preventing Sharon Boyce from addressing the meeting. He introduced personal care workers John & Gamu, gave an overview of the agenda and various housekeeping matters, and introduced Uncle Willie Prince (Life member).

3 Acknowledgement of Country and of People with Disability

Uncle Willie Prince asked the meeting for a moment of silence to acknowledge the hurt caused to First Nations peoples across Australia by the *NO* outcome of the 14 October referendum.

The meeting was silent for one minute.

Uncle Willie then spoke in acknowledgement of country and of people with disability:

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. We pay our respects to elders, past, present and emerging, and acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play within the community.

QDN also acknowledges people with disability who have come before us and have died in institutional settings, as well as those who are still trapped in institutions or silenced by institutional practices. We take on the responsibility of being clear about the rights of ALL people with disability and, where necessary, speak in an informed and considered manner for those who cannot speak up for themselves.

4 Attendance and Apologies

Gary Matthews introduced Mark McKeon (Company Secretary). Mark advised that a list of those attending the meeting would be compiled from the register at the entrance to the meeting and asked if there were any apologies for absence. The apologies advised to the meeting were:

Hon Craig Crawford MP (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Seniors and Disability Services)

Kevin Cocks AM (Life member), Byron Albury, Nadia Brady, Nick Darby, Ted Jones, Grandall Manning, Kim Netterfield, Pam Spelling, Linda Tully and Kevin Willis (Members)

5 Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

Mark McKeon advised that the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting were approved by the Board on 18 April 2023, and posted on QDN's website and mailed to members without electronic access on 28 September. In response to requests from a number of members present, he read the minutes of the 2022 AGM to the meeting.

It was then **resolved** by show of hands

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 29 October 2022 be accepted.

6 Chairperson's Address

Sharon Boyce (Chairperson) thanked Gary Matthews for chairing the meeting while she was unable to be heard, and thanked Uncle Willie Prince for the acknowledgement of country and of people with disability. She then spoke to the Chairperson's Report included in QDN's *2022/23 Annual Report* and referred to:

- QDN's unwavering commitment to the principle of 'nothing about us, without us'
- members coming together from all over Queensland to celebrate QDN in our 20th year

- the leadership, retirement during the year and legacy of our previous CEO, Paige Armstrong
- the smooth transition to our new CEO, Michelle Moss, and the work she has done since taking over that role
- our appreciation and recognition of people whose dedication and commitment have been instrumental in shaping QDN’s journey, including:
 - former life member Bill Garsden and other members who passed during the year
 - John Macpherson and Peter Gurr, who retired as directors at the 2022 AGM
 - Colleen Papadopoulos, who retired as Company Secretary in early 2023, and
 - the directors in office during the last year, for the unique perspectives, skills, and insights they each brought to the table
- QDN’s commitment to informing change through advocacy, in areas including the NDIS review, Disability Inclusive Procurement, health, housing, taxis, transport, the 2032 Olympics & Paralympics and disaster preparedness
- the continued growth and positive feedback from QDeNgage
- QDN’s connections and leadership fostered through activities such as the NDIS review forums that we held across Queensland, the extension of Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) across Queensland and Australia, and initiatives such as Digital Inclusion, and
- QDN’s influence, showcased by the release of the *Voice of Queenslanders with Disability* report, our advocacy for Disability Inclusive Procurement, our engagement with the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hot Topics meetup in Canada, and our increasing media footprint in Queensland and more widely on issues of importance to our members.

In conclusion, our 20th anniversary year has been one of profound growth, empowerment, and amplified voice for QDN. Our commitment to the principles of informing, connecting, leading, and influencing has borne fruit in ways that fill us with hope and determination for the future.

As we look ahead, we remain resolute in our mission to ensure that the voice of people with disability is not only heard but drives lasting change. Together, we shall continue to rise, shaping a world where ‘nothing about us, without us’ is not just a slogan but a reality.

The meeting responded to Sharon’s address with applause.

7 Co-Design Videos

Three QDN co-design videos were then shown to the meeting:

- [Get onboard with co-design.](#)
- [Co-design. It's the way forward.](#)
- [Now is the time to co-design.](#)

8 CEO's Address – The Year in Review

Michelle Moss (CEO) spoke to her report included in QDN's *2022/23 Annual Report*, and commenced by acknowledging traditional owners, the week of silence and the mourning of our First Nations people, and our commitment at QDN to continue to work with our First Nations members and communities in the spirit of reconciliation, and pathways forward.

Michelle referred to:

- the leadership and strategic insights of former CEO Paige Armstrong, and the opportunity given to her by the Board when she succeeded Paige as CEO
- the recognition of QDN's work and leadership in co-design demonstrated by the co-design videos, which were commissioned by the former Department of Disability Services as a starting point to help agencies, community organisations and businesses understand "what is co-design"
- the Digital Inclusion project, substantially completed in 2022/23, and the amazing outcomes which resulted: providing people with devices and support, building their skills, and making a difference in their lives
- the Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction project, including QDN's work with twelve local governments across Queensland, the immediate impact of DIDRR on members of our community in bushfires situations, and the importance for people with disability of having a plan and knowing what they can do, who is going to support them, and how that's going to happen in a time of emergency
- the work of our amazing peer leaders to deliver the DI and DIDRR projects
- QDeNgage: customers this year include the Department of Premier and Cabinet (who engaged with us to develop an accessible event guide), Volunteering Queensland (to develop resources to guide people to support/engage people with disability to be volunteers), the Department of Transport and Main Roads, local councils, and many companies seeking disability awareness training
- QDN's 31 peer support groups, the peer leaders of those peer support groups, and participants in our emerging leaders program, many of whom are at the AGM today

- our policy and systemic advocacy work, including our representatives' membership of 100 committees and consultation processes, and our delivery of nearly 50 policy submissions this financial year
- housing, health, procurement, and taxi accessibility, and
- the Australian Disability Strategy Forum that we held in late June with only six weeks' notice from government: we were able to bring together 250 people in a room, to live, walk, roll, stroll what real inclusion looks like in hosting an event, with incredible speakers who came to the party to share their ideas and reflections about Australia's disability strategy and how we can work together to acknowledge where we are.

We know that there is a long way to go, to making that strategy a live and living document, that brings about change. But we can only do that through our work together, and I think it's really important to acknowledge the strong partnerships that we have with government, with Griffith University and QUT and the University of Queensland, and with the community organisations that we have worked with across the projects: Community Service Industry Alliance, Volunteering Queensland, neighbourhood centres, the Real Estate Institute of Queensland and so many other organisations that we have worked in partnership with to deliver on key pieces of work.

And I acknowledge our incredible Board directors, for your strategic oversight and leadership, your wisdom, your support to the organisation, and your trailblazing in leading the way to ensure, as we have talked about, that QDN is a strong organisation, that we are at the forefront, that we are very loud and that we are listened to. Thank you to the Board and to our Chairperson, our Deputy Chairperson, and our Board of directors.

I also acknowledge our incredible staff. We have an amazing team at QDN and they do incredible work both publicly and behind the scenes to support and deliver on our work. I acknowledge those who have moved on to other different roles and opportunities and yet still work with us in lots of different ways, and our current staff. Thank you for all that you have done and for your commitment to QDN.

Finally, I thank all of you, QDN members who are here and those who cannot be with us today, and I acknowledge the great work that you do as ambassadors for QDN, championing what we do and how we do it, and your leadership and commitment to the organisation.

The meeting responded to Michelle's address, and to her acknowledgement of peer leaders, peer support group convenors, past and current emerging leaders, directors, staff and members, with applause.

9 Financial Report

Mark McKeon confirmed that the *Financial Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023* was posted on QDN's website and mailed to members without electronic access on 28 September, and advised that further copies were available at the entrance to the meeting.

Gary Matthews introduced Peter Gesch (Haywards Chartered Accountants). Peter confirmed that Haywards have issued an unqualified audit report on QDN's 2022/23 financial statements, and thanked QDN's staff for their preparation of the financial statements and their assistance during the audit.

Following a request from a member, Mark read the 'Financial Overview' included on page 61 of QDN's *2022/23 Annual Report*. He also advised that the Board and staff would take on board the member's request that a similar summary be circulated to members with the *Notice of Meeting* and other Agenda papers in future years.

It was then **resolved** by show of hands

That the financial report of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon be received.

In response to a question from a member, Mark advised the meeting that there is no motion to reappoint the auditors because the Corporations Law requires a public company's auditors to remain in office until they resign or are removed — QDN had to follow a specific process in 2018, the last time the auditors were changed, including notifying the Australian Securities and Investments Commission of the proposed change well before the AGM.

10 Retirement of Director

Sharon Boyce paid tribute to Jane Britt, who will retire as a director at the conclusion of the AGM. She mentioned Jane's service to QDN, the Board and across the whole of the membership, her knowledge and ability to educate us, especially across vision-related issues, and her kindness. She concluded by noting that Jane has much to offer and will be sorely missed by the Board.

The meeting responded with applause.

Jane Britt responded by thanking Sharon, her fellow directors for their mentorship as she stepped into her first governance role, Michelle Moss and Paige Armstrong for their active support over the last three years, and others in QDN's executive management team. Jane concluded by commending members in the room and online for the work they do for QDN and for local communities.

I have to say the most touching thing of being involved with QDN, not just as a member in the time before I became a Board member but seeing it more directly as someone sitting on the Board, is the engagement that you have with your communities through your peer leadership, the outreach that you do in the various communities that you are in, and the care and support for each other in those communities. So I just want to say a heart thank you to the executive management, to the Board and to each and every member in this room and beyond for the work that you do.

11 Meeting Close

Sharon Boyce thanked all QDN staff for their assistance with the running of the AGM, thanked Gary Matthews for his assistance in chairing it, and then thanked the Board.

I hope you will forgive us for some of the technical struggles. We overcame them, as every day we at QDN overcome things. We move on. We are a voice for our community. And we are a voice within the disability community, a loud voice as Michelle said, and we are leaders there. So keep up the good work, everybody. Please keep sharing. Please keep your networks open, and please try and do it more, so that next year we will be able to say “Wow, we are even bigger than we were last year”. Thank you, everybody. Go safely, and enjoy lunch.

Rob Ellis, Willie Prince, Alex Cole and other members thanked Michelle Moss, Paige Armstrong and the other QDN staff for their work over the last year.

Michelle introduced two videos made as part of the Homelessness Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction project QDN has undertaken with the University of Sydney. The videos were then shown to the meeting.

Michelle then thanked the team from Kedron-Wavell Services Club and Issy, Amy, Suzanne, Brendan, Steve, Margaret, Bec, Karen, Nicole, Andrew and the other QDN staff who contributed to the success of the AGM.

Sharon closed the meeting at 11.50 a.m., and members retired to lunch.

Confirmed by the Board



Sharon Boyce, Chairperson

12 December 2023

Date