

1 Attendees

Sharon Boyce (Chairperson), Danielle Brown, Talitha Kingsmill, Stacy Miller, Des Ryan, Peter Tully and Nerine Williams (Directors)

Peter Gesch (Haywards Chartered Accountants – QDN auditors)

Michelle Moss (Chief Executive Officer) and other QDN staff

Mark McKeon (Company Secretary)

Other QDN life and ordinary members, supporters and guests as listed in the Attendance Register

Danielle & Amanda (Deaf Connect – Auslan interpreters)

Sandy (Reporters Ink – transcription services)

Lawrence & Phil (Staffing Options – personal care workers)

2 Welcome

Sharon Boyce (Chairperson) welcomed those present and introduced Michelle Moss (Chief Executive Officer). Michelle introduced personal care workers Lawrence, Phil & Margaret, gave an overview of various housekeeping matters, and introduced the Directors and Company Secretary seated with her at the front of the room.

Sharon then introduced Uncle Willie Prince (Life member).

3 Acknowledgement of Country and of People with Disability

Uncle Willie Prince spoke of his birth in Cherbourg on Waka Waka country, his spiritual connection to the Kalkadoon people in Mount Isa, and his removal from community and placement in institutional care at an early age.

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

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather here, the Turrbal and Jagera clan groups. We recognise their continuous connection to the land and the surrounding waters of the Brisbane River, which we call Maiwar.

We pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging, and to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are with us here today. We acknowledge the important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people play within the community.

We also acknowledge 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.

In closing, Uncle Willie referred to the commitment, courage and vision of those who fought the fight in those early days of QDN, pioneers like Bill Garsden, Matt McCracken, Wendy Lovelace, and Gary Matthews, without whom we would not have the QDN we have today.

4 Attendance and Apologies

Sharon Boyce 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:

Tanya Carroll, Nick Darby, Ted Jones, Alison MacLean, Josey McMahon, Margaret Rodgers and Kelvin Steinhardt (Members)

5 Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting

Mark McKeon read the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting to the meeting, and advised that they were approved by the Board on 20 December 2023.

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

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2023 be accepted.

6 Chairperson's Address

Sharon Boyce (Chairperson) thanked Mark McKeon for reading the minutes of the 2023 AGM and acknowledged the achievements and growth of QDN and its members since that meeting. She then spoke to the Chairperson's Report included in QDN's 2023/24 *Annual Report* and referred to:

- QDN's leading role as a state-based strategic advocate for people with disability, and our voice and input into the development of the NDIS
- her fellow directors, their commitment to creating a change, and their work on a voluntary basis to help educate and mentor people with disability in Queensland
- members' daily struggles and the little things does to try to maximise opportunities to contribute, such as starting the AGM at 10 o'clock instead of at 9 o'clock
- the availability and willingness to listen of QDN's CEO and all members of our staff, and their commitment to QDN's vision and mission and to assisting us to live our best life and sharing that with the broader disability community
- QDN's linkages with governments, our understanding of legislation and policy, and the actual, real voices that we share with government
- Gary Matthews, his support for her when she was unable to be heard at the 2023 AGM, his exciting ideas and the way he expressed them, and the hole his passing in June has left at QDN
- the 2023 *Australia's Disability Strategy – Queensland Forum* and 2024 *Queensland Disability Conference*, and the opportunities they provided for us to talk about lived experience, share the reality of our everyday lives, and promote understanding of how people with disability can be leaders and can be part of making a better and stronger community
- QDN's four principles: *inform, connect, lead and influence*
- our peer leaders, and the power of the group in sharing with their community and influencing and leading change in that community
- the work we do in policy areas: the Australian disability strategy, the Disability Royal Commission, the NDIS, health and transport
- how we share our understanding of those things with government, and how we can educate one another and create real change through those processes
- the emerging leaders program, QDeNgage, and the Game Changers report, and
- the way QDN links us to different areas of the media and gets our stories out.

It's very energising, when you see the members in front of you, and you know the work that all of them do. I want to celebrate that today.

We need to make sure that we have our eyes all over the NDIS review, the work on the Disability Royal Commission, and housing strategy. Remember, we have a new government, and they'll have new ways of doing things, but we know what's going to work for our community. We need to make sure that we keep educating and sharing and being strong as a network – which is what we are – and celebrate our membership and celebrate QDN. Thank you, guys.

The meeting responded to Sharon's address with applause.

7 Gary Matthews

Michelle Moss referred to the online gathering at which many members shared their memories of Gary Matthews. Those memories have been put together in a video [Remembering Gary Matthews](#), which was then shown to the meeting.

8 CEO's Address – The Year in Review

Michelle Moss (CEO) spoke to her report included in QDN's *2023/24 Annual Report*. Michelle referred to:

- the challenging policy landscape over the last year, with the Disability Royal Commission, the DRC report and the government's response to that, and the NDIS review
- the incredible commitment by our members to contribute to those significant pieces of policy work
- one of the things at the core of QDN and our strength, the work that each and every member does every day to make the world a more inclusive and accessible place for not only yourselves but for each other
- QDN national leadership in the disability inclusive disaster risk reduction space
- how QDN gets things happening in Queensland because of our peer leaders and the collective of the network
- the strong position of influence that members have in communities across the state, and members' collective reputation for reliability and quality of contributions in discussions with all levels of government
- the many areas of QDN's work during the year, including supporting members' participation in Parliamentary enquiries around supported accommodation
- the "see me, hear me, respect me" campaign and the work that we have done with Queensland Health
- the National Centre of Excellence in Health and Intellectual Disabilities
- the increasing participation by members at a very high level, having influence and voice in the State arena and in national committees

I think the future over the next year really is about thinking about the work of disability stakeholder engagement and the co-design strategy that QDN has been asked to lead. And I think that's really – I use this word when we had the group convenors gathering over the last two days – about "trailblazing".

And it is trailblazing, the work that we are going to be able to do, to help shape the implementation of change following the Disability Royal Commission and the NDIS review, with the voice and people with disability front and centre – that’s something that is not being done in any other State and Territory.

I just want to say thank you to the Board: to Sharon and Gary, as the Chair and Deputy Chair, to Talitha and Des who stepped in as the Chairs of our two Committees, and to Peter and Stacy who are retiring from the Board and to acknowledge your contributions.

And I just want to also make note of the staff. We have an incredible senior leadership team at QDN with Steve and Karen and Brendan and Suzanne, and our managers Nick, Carla and the broader staff. I am really proud of the work that they do each and every day.

And finally to our peer leaders and our QDN members. You are all incredible human beings, and the contributions you make and what you continue to give to make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities has my utmost respect and I know utmost respect of the Queensland community. So keep up the good work. 2024/25 is going to be extremely busy again, and we look forward to doing that work with you together. So thank you.

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

9 Questions from Members

Sharon Boyce, Michelle Moss and Mark McKeon then responded to members’ questions and suggestions in relation to:

- working with the new Queensland Government and relationships with other parties in the Queensland parliament
- the frustration of screen reader and blind users who were unable to complete the ballot form for this election of directors, and alternative balloting strategies used by other organisations such as People with Disability Australia (PWDA)
- difficulties with the NDIS community engagement area and the agency’s denial of specialised recommendations in functional capacity reports
- encouraging people with disability to enrol to vote, and then to cast their vote, in state and federal elections
- QDN’s Peer Support Groups
- the rules for the election of directors in QDN’s Constitution

- getting input and feedback from members in rural and regional areas, and the town hall meetings which started in 2024

The question and answer session concluded with compliments from members in relation to QDN staff members and for the easy-read financial information sheet available at the meeting.

10 Financial Report

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

That the financial report of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2024 and the reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon be accepted.

11 Retirement of Directors

Sharon Boyce paid tribute to Peter Tully and Stacy Miller, who will retire as directors at the conclusion of the AGM. She mentioned their service to QDN and the Board, Peter's work behind the scenes as a "quiet achiever" and care for his community, and Stacy's diligence and how her advice helped to educate her fellow directors. She concluded by noting that both Peter and Stacy will be missed by the Board.

The meeting responded with applause.

Peter Tully responded by thanking Sharon, his fellow directors and QDN members.

I just want to say thank you for all of the support that you have given us in this four-year journey that I have had on the Board. My four-year term has come to an end. I have chosen not to re-nominate, and that is because I want to continue to put my effort into those little projects behind the scenes. Thank you.

Stacy responded by also thanking her fellow directors, Michelle and QDN's senior leadership team.

The heights that QDN has reached under both Paige's and now Michelle's leadership is just phenomenal. Our Board is very lucky: the operational side of things is so well-handled by Michelle and leadership team, that the Board can focus on governance of QDN. As long as we can strike that balance and our Board gives our senior leadership team the respect and the ability to keep going with those operations, then we will always have a very successful and far-reaching organisation, doing such good things for our community. So well done to them. I have the greatest respect for you all. Thank you.

Sharon noted that she and Des Ryan were also retiring by rotation at this AGM, and that both have nominated for re-election.

12 Election of Directors

Talitha Kingsmill (Chair, Nominations & Performance Committee) thanked all members who had put their names forward for nomination this year, for their passion for QDN – a passion to be part of the solution – and their strong advocacy. Talitha then wished all of the nominees the best of luck, and formally introduced them in alphabetical order by surname.

Mark McKeon advised that he was the Returning Officer for the election of directors, and that the ballot was scrutineered by Brendan Geaney (Finance & Administration Manager) and reviewed by Peter Gesch (Partner, Haywards Chartered Accountants). He announced that the ballots were counted after the close of voting at 10 a.m. on Thursday 7 November.

As Returning Officer, I advise that, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 10.5 of QDN's Constitution, the following five candidates received the highest number of votes and have been elected as directors of Queenslanders with Disability Network Limited:

- Alison Barber
- Sharon Boyce
- Karen McCarthy
- Des Ryan
- Nigel Webb

Please join me in congratulating them on their election. The three new directors will commence their term at the close of the AGM.

The meeting responded with applause, and Sharon Boyce thanked members, on behalf of the successful candidates, for voting in the election and for their support.

13 Confirmation of Director's Appointment

Sharon Boyce advised that the Board had appointed lawyer Danielle Brown as a director with effect from 7 November 2024, and that this appointment must be confirmed at the AGM.

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

That the appointment by the Board of Danielle Brown as a director be confirmed in accordance with Rule 10.4(g) of QDN's Constitution.

14 Amendment of Constitution

Sharon Boyce advised that the Board has proposed amendments to QDN's Constitution as set out in Annexure A to the Notice of Annual General Meeting, and Mark McKeon provided a brief verbal summary of the explanation of the changes included on pages 5 & 6 of the Notice of AGM.

Sharon, Nerine Williams (Director) and Mark then responded to members' questions and comments in relation to:

- demonstrating a connection with Queensland when applying for membership, and
- the election of the Chairperson at the first Board meeting after an AGM.

It was then **resolved** by show of hands (35 in favour and none against)

That the Constitution be amended in the manner set out in Annexure A to the notice convening this meeting in accordance with section 136(2) of the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth), with effect from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.

15 Meeting Close

Sharon Boyce thanked QDN members for their participation in and commitment to the meeting. She thanked Michelle Moss and the QDN staff for their assistance with the running of the AGM, and thanked the Board.

Everybody has listened to, questioned, given us a chance to really feel what people have to say. You know that we can work together to achieve great outcomes. I just want to say thank you for that, thank you for your participation right through the year, and thank you for being part of QDN and being so energised. Thank you.

Michelle Moss then thanked the QDN team for all their work for the AGM, bringing everything together over the past many months, and working with Mark (as Company Secretary) for the AGM. She thanked the team from Brisbane City Hall and colleagues from Deaf Connect, Reporters Ink and Staffing Options who contributed to the success of the AGM.

Sharon closed the meeting at 12.10 p.m., and members retired to lunch.

Confirmed by the Board



Sharon Boyce, Chairperson

18 February 2025

Date