



## **Annual General Meeting**

10 November 2023

Apex Community Centre, 616 Burbridge Road, West Beach 5024

### **BOARD MEMBERS - PRESENT**

George Poniatowski – Chairperson

Shaun Lorrain – Deputy Chairperson

Colleen Braddick - Secretary

Thi Ai My Le

Hung Pham

### **CEO- (PUBLIC OFFICER)**

David McGinlay (CEO) Present

### **MEMBERS - PRESENT**

Please see attached attendance register.

### **APOLOGIES**

No Apologies

### **MINUTE TAKER**

Donna Crosbie



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### 1. MEETING OPENED AT 11.17AM

The Chairperson George Poniatowski opened our 2023 Annual General Meeting. George gave a Welcome to Country.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Nil changes were requested to the minutes of the previous meeting that was held on 18 November 2023.

Minutes had been circulated to DRAS members for review prior to the 2023 AGM by way of email and uploaded to the DRAS website. Minutes accepted.

<b>Moved: George Poniatowski</b>	<b>Seconded Shaun Lorrain</b>	<b>Motion: Carried</b>
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### 3. ANNUAL REPORT

The CEO submitted the Annual Report to the members present at the AGM. The Annual Report, prior to the AGM, was made available to DRAS members in soft copy and uploaded to the DRAS website. The report provides an insight into each of the programs being run by ORAS and the future direction of DRAS relevant to funding grants and programs.

All programs have reported strong growth in client numbers and in particular, NDIS Appeals client numbers continue to increase beyond the funding capacity. DRAS has made and continues to make representations to DSS and government in relation to this funding.



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### 3.1 Chairperson Report

There have been changes to the Board this year and because of changes to the DRAS Constitution that require the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson to be people with lived experience of disability, Shaun Lorrain has taken on the role of Deputy Chairperson.

We have seen the departure of Girolamo Vinci and Luisa Greco who, due to high workloads outside of the Board, have completed two years on the Board and made the decision not to renominate. Lurna Howson resigned from the Board due to family commitments interstate and Eliza Tucker resigned due to a high workload from other commitments.

On a positive note, Hung Pham and Le Thi Ai My joined the Board following the last AGM and continue to serve on the Board along with Colleen Braddick. The Board are actively recruiting to fill the two vacant positions to complete the eight-member Board.

This fiscal year saw the conclusion of the Disability Royal Commission Program and with the end of the program DRAS were sad to see Senior Advocate Angela Duigan leave the Organisation. Angela was an enthusiastic Advocate for DRAS clients for seven years and we wish her well for the future.

Our staff are the lifeblood of our organisation and as the Chairperson I am acutely aware of the significant increase in client service provision across all programs that DRAS has delivered this year. On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate the staff on a job well done and for their efforts to ensure DRAS achieve our mission statement.

As Chairperson I look forward to the year ahead and as we continue to successfully deliver our current programs and navigate new projects to ensure the long-term sustainability of DRAS as a provider of services to people within the disability community



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### 3.2 CEO Update on programs and funding

This year has seen a significant increase in the workloads of the two DSS funded programs, NDAP program and NDIS Appeals program. Both teams have exceeded the funded KPI by at least 50%, well above the expectation of the department. Quality of service has been retained and we have seen this through our client feedback.

The ICB program has expanded this year and is the first time we have had facilitators based in the regional areas. We have one in the Riverland and one in Mount Gambier. The ICB program changed being in the form of Outreach clinics and client engagement, much greater in the regions than previously. The ICB program is going from strength to strength.

As we move forward to the next financial year the funding is retained for NDIS and NDAP, that will run through to June 30, 2025. The current funding for the ICB program finishes 30 June 2024.

We have submitted an application to the Department for three year's funding for the ICB program to start on 1 July 2024. That funding will further expand the program. What we have applied for is to retain the positions in Riverland and Mount Gambier, funding to make the positions full time. There will be two funded positions in Adelaide, both being funded to full-time positions and two funded positions with a new office opening in Port Augusta. One of the positions in Port Augusta will be an Indigenous program facilitator. That is currently with the department, and we won't find out about the grant until approximately February or March next year. The budgeted funding for the application is \$2 million.



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### 4. FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr Hall was engaged by Disability Rights Advocacy Service to undertake this year's independent financial audit and the Chairperson of the DRAS Board would like to move that we engage Mr Hall again for the 2023-2024 financial year.

It is recommended that Peter Hall be engaged as auditor for 2023/2024 financial year.

<b>Moved: George Poniatowski</b>	<b>Seconded Shaun Lorrain</b>	<b>Motion: Carried</b>
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### 5. ELECTION OF VACANT BOARD POSITIONS

We currently have four Board members, and our Constitution allows that we have a maximum of eight Board members. There are currently four vacancies on the Board.

In accordance with the DRAS Constitution, two members of the Board were required to stand down at the AGM and both were eligible for reelection. Dr Vinci advised the Board that he would not be seeking re-election to a position on the Board.

Nadia Field was elected to the Board and Shaun Lorrain was reelected to the Board. There were no objections to these candidates.



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### 6. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

### 7. MEETING CLOSED

Meeting closed at 11.28am

These minutes were passed by the DRAS Board and signed off by the Chairperson as a true and correct record of meeting.

Chairperson      Full Name \_\_George Poniatowski\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_