

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF ACADEMIC
GENERAL PRACTICE**

**Thursday 16th July 2009
Melbourne Convention Centre**

- 1. Attendance:** Marie Pirotta chaired the Meeting in the absence of Jon Emery and Dimity Pond. For a list of all in attendance see attached list

- 2. Apologies:** Jon Emery, Dimity Pond, Vicky Palmer, Richard Reed, Nerida Paterson, Neil Spike, Simon Willcock, Claire Jackson, Danielle Mazza, Faline Howes, Claire Jackson

- 3. Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting:** These were accepted as correct subject to ensuring that the name of the PHC RIS Primary Care Research Conference is made consistent - Mark Nelson and Ellen McIntyre

- 4. Business Arising:**
 - 4.1. Representation on new NHMRC committees:** An email to members was circulated seeking nominations for two new committees that the NHMRC was forming, named 'Health Care in the Community' and 'Prevention'. As yet, it is not known whether our AAAGP nominees (Doris Young, Mark Nelson and Liz Farmer for the "Health Care" and Mark Harris and Chris Del Mar for the "Prevention" Committee) have been accepted onto these committees. We do know that Doris Young and Mark Harris were accepted onto the NHMRC Academy starting in 2010 for a three year period and this will mean attending meetings in Canberra to serve on the Primary Care Services panel.

The NHMRC Academy was established in 2009, it is a prestigious body of eminent researchers that enhances NHMRC's peer review processes by giving independent expert advice to NHMRC's CEO

4.2. GP Super Clinics: Reporting from the Heads of Department's (HoDs) meeting, Marjan Kljakovic told the AGM that Super Clinics have a wide range of funding and organisation models; most have an educational component to their structure though many do not have a research component. The HoDs felt that the AAAGP should send a representative to a Super Clinic meeting in Queensland in October. Mark Harris mentioned that his research group have done a rapid systematic review on integrated primary health care centres, including super clinics, which has just finished and will be on the APHCRI website in two weeks. The review suggests that integrated primary health care centres are successful at improving access but the evidence was less conclusive about whether they improve outcomes. This report may be useful to take to the October meeting in Queensland.

Nigel Stocks –noted that Adelaide UniCare may be taking over 2 Super Clinics in Adelaide with a strong focus on teaching and research.

4.3. AAAGP name change: Marie Pirotta introduced the matter, detailing the history of the Association's debate and the outcome of the email straw poll. As the required quorum was present at the meeting, a vote took place on whether the name should remain unchanged or change to Australian Association for Academic Primary Care. The result was 81% in favour of a change to the Australian Association for Academic Primary Care .AAAPC

4.4. Joel Rhee, the winner of the AAAGP Travelling Fellowship gave a brief account of his travels. He travelled to 'Discipline of GP' in Queensland and worked with Geoff Mitchell. One benefit of his travels was that he was able to exchange views on research findings in palliative care in general practice.

5. General Business:

5.1 President's Report: Marie read out Jon Emery's written report. This will be posted on the AAAGP website.

5.2 Treasurer's Report: Marie opened the report by stating that Association was in a stronger financial position with \$30,000 in the bank. The Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss statement were available for members to review. The main expense is the salary of the secretariat. Banking fees were thought to be on the high side. There was a general discussion about ways to reduce the cost of the executive committee's teleconference meetings.

5.3 Office Bearers for 2009/10: All office bearers agreed to continue for another year:

President: Jon Emery

Secretary: Dimity Pond

Treasurer: Marie Pirotta

Editor of the Newsletter: Sarah Dennis

State Representatives:

Victoria: Vicki Palmer

New South Wales: Joachim Sturmberg

Queensland: Deb Askew

ACT: Marjan Klakovic

Tasmania: Faline Howes

South Australia- Richard Reed

Marie pointed out that we need representatives for Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

5.4 Secretariat Position: Kitty Novy introduced herself and explained the nature of the work the position involved: organising, attending and writing the minutes of monthly executive teleconference meetings, producing the newsletter, maintaining the AAAGP website, organisation of AAAGP's various sections of the PHCRIS conferences including the AAAGP conference dinner, and organising the banking for AAAGP. This is all accomplished on six hours a week. The members expressed their appreciation for all Kitty's hard work and

agreed that the organisation depended on this secretariat role to be able to achieve all that it achieves.

5.5 Newsletter: Sarah Dennis thanked members who had contributed to the newsletter over the past year and outlined the plans for the next newsletter. She invited contributions from members anywhere in Australia, especially those outside of the south east corner.

6. Other Business: Ellen McIntyre thanked the AAAGP for its assistance in planning and running of the PHCRIS conference. Mention was made of the AAAGP banner that was not on display at the venue and this needs to be displayed at future conferences. PHCRED is considering funding junior researchers with their AAAGP membership fees but the AAAGP needs to approach PHCRED. Marjan summarised the main topics of discussion at the Heads of Department meeting. John Furler advised that, with Parker, Mieke and Marie, he had run a lunch time event for post doctoral people and had encouraged them to join AAAGP. Kirsty Douglas expressed concern that Sydney University appears to be reducing the post of Professor of General Practice to a part time position, although Michael Kidd explained that this was due to withdrawal of funding from outside the university. Michael Kidd talked about pilot areas being run to measure the impact of research, next year the focus will be on public health and suggested that AAAGP members should get actively involved in trying to lift the profile of General Practice and Primary Care.

Meeting Closed 6.30pm