



MINUTES OF THE ALHR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

27 June 2022 at 7:00pm AEST

Via Zoom

Please email secretary@alhr.org.au to RSVP your attendance

Place: scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Jun 27, 2022 07:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89917488141?pwd=VGNGVXFkMDFmR3FzanJXbmh6VnBOZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 1748 8141

Passcode: 334848

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AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. To Confirm the Minutes of Annual General Meeting of the Association held on 22 February 2021
3. To receive the reports from the Executive, including financial report pursuant to the Rules.
4. To elect office bearers and ordinary members of the National Committee:
 - President

- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Six (6) Ordinary Members.

5. To confirm nominees from State and Territory Committees
6. Other business

Sangeeta Sharmin
 Secretary
 Australian Lawyers for Human Rights
 13 June 2022

1. Kerry - high welcome, acknowledgement of Country.

2. Sangeeta: formerly record attendance and note apologies:

- Kerry Weste
- Sangeeta Sharmin
- Lara Douvartzidi
- Jessica Elliot
- Nat Wade
- Valerie Heath
- Anthony Hallal
- Katherine Hinton
- Anna Kennett
- Georgia Burke
- Millie Jones
- Talya Jaffe
- Ella Furlong
- Nat Szablewska
- Andrea Rodgers
- Nathan Kennedy
- Aleesha Nathan
- Naomi Gould
- Nicholas Stewart
- Jessica Bayley

Apologies:

- Zubayr Abrahams
- Elaine Sops
- Valerie Health
- Georgia Kalynuik
- Cassi Bourke

3. Confirm minutes of the AGM held on 22 February 2021

Kerry W moved. Georgia seconded (noted her surname on first page was missing her surname).

4. To receive the reports from the Executive, including the financial report pursuant to the ALHR rules, noting that the Association has permission from NSW Fair Trading to have a combined 2020/2021 AGM and the reports are therefore combined reports.

Kerry moves motion to receive the Treasurer's Report, the Secretary's Report and the President's Report.

Treasurer's Report. Sangeeta seconded.
Secretary's Report. Nicholas seconded.

Kerry summarises president's report verbally:

I am honoured to present the ALHR President's Report for the 2021/2022 year. I would like to extend utmost gratitude to each and every person who has made voluntary contributions to ALHR for helping our wonderful organisation to continue to stand up for human rights and the rule of law in Australia. As in previous years, I have once again been incredibly fortunate to be supported by a diverse Executive Management Committee and National Committee of extremely talented and dedicated individuals. Each of them volunteer their time, on top of busy day-jobs and other life-responsibilities, and all have worked tirelessly, to the very best of their capacity, in order to increase the profile of ALHR nationwide and the impact of our work both locally, nationally and internationally.

As president it would be impossible to perform my role without the support of ALHR's vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Natalie Wade, our Vice President, Chair of the Disability Subcommittee and very long serving member of the Executive Management Committee. Natalie will be stepping away from the Vice Presidency after three years of absolutely incredible service in the role. Natalie is an amazing colleague and friend. She is not only one of Australia's leading disability rights advocates; Nat is passionately committed to everyone's human rights and determined that our communities become more inclusive for everyone at all levels. This is seen in the wide range of her significant contributions over so many years across all of ALHR's thematic areas of focus and in terms of her contributions to ALHR's governance and strategic direction. Beyond her work as Vice President, Nat founded and continues to Chair our Disability Rights Subcommittee and I am very pleased she will continue to work with us in that capacity.

Outside of her work for ALHR Natalie is relentlessly committed to improving the world by championing human rights. So much so that it is not possible to list all of her prolific achievements here. To highlight just a few, she has been South Australian Young Lawyer of the Year (2016). Australian Young Lawyer of the Year (2016), launched Australia's first devoted Disability Rights Law Firm, changed the way people with complex communication disabilities give evidence in South Australian courts, jointly launched the Disabled Lawyers Association, served as a special advisor to the Disability Royal Commission, and published *Disability Rights in Real Life*, a law handbook for people with disabilities, their families and supporters. Natalie is a powerhouse and I am honoured to have partnered with her in leading ALHR and look forward to continuing to work with her in disability rights.

I am so very pleased to receive Nichols Stewart's nomination for Vice President. Nicholas has been a Co-Chair of ALHR's LGBTI Rights Subcommittee since 2016 and a member of the Executive Management Committee since it was established in 2017. Like Nat, Nicholas is dedicated to championing human rights in both his professional practise as a criminal lawyer, work on committees outside of ALHR and in his many significant contributions to the work and governance of ALHR for the past six years. Nicholas' contributions consistently go well beyond LGBTIQ via his work for the ALHR EMC. I feel very fortunate to receive a nomination for Vice President from a lawyer with such significant experience and immense professionalism.

Thank you to our amazing Treasurer, Katherine Hinton who has continued to do a stellar job. I am extremely grateful that we had such a competent, independent person like Katherine who shows initiative. It has been an incredible asset to ALHR to have a Chartered Accountant with over 23 years Finance experience who also has a strong interest in human rights and social justice. We are very grateful to Katherine for the time she so generously gives ALHR and I am so incredibly pleased to receive her nomination for another year!

Sangeeta Sharmin ALHR's current Secretary is stepping down after two years of amazing service in the role. Sangeeta has ensured ALHR's smooth sailing and will be greatly missed. Beyond her contributions as Secretary, Sangeeta's commitment to human rights and belief in ALHR is evidenced in her years as an ACT and NSW Convenor before stepping up to the Executive. I extend most sincere thanks to Sangeeta for her willingness to assist and her consistent engagement and reliability. The position of secretary is an absolutely key role on the ALHR Executive. Our Secretary is not only essential to keeping the good ship ALHR organised and running smoothly but plays an important role in contributing to governance and ALHR's engagement with the media.

I am very pleased to receive Anna Kennett's nomination for the role of ALHR Secretary. Anna is based in South Australia and has been a past ALHR convenor in that state. I am sure she will step smoothly into Sangeeta's big shoes!

I know I speak for all of the members of the Executive Management Committee and the National Committee in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to the members of the ALHR executive who are stepping away from their roles and in expressing what an absolute pleasure and honour it has been to work with you.

he Ordinary Member for Governance positions are extremely important to ALHR and without the contributions made by this team ALHR's capacity to engage in timely strategic human rights advocacy would be severely impeded.

I extend sincere thanks to Jessica Bayley, Nicholas Stewart, Madeleine Bridgett, Naomi Gould, Valerie Heath and Anthony Hallal for their work on the EMC throughout the past year.

ALHR's media exposure has continued to ensure that ALHR's strategic human rights advocacy received the traction and attention it deserves. Through the expert hands of our superb

professional media manager, Matt Mitchell the last year has seen ALHR interviewed, quoted and published in the media through Australia and overseas. I would like to express our utmost thanks to Matt for his flexibility as ALHR navigates the fiscal challenges posed by the past year, Matt always goes absolutely above and beyond for ALHR and he is an incredible asset to the organisation.

Throughout the past twelve months ALHR's subcommittees have continued to build on various campaigns with their respective subcommittee members during highly challenging circumstances. Our subcommittees have continued the process of adapting to holding fewer face to face events during the pandemic. Although events are now possible, ALHR has remained very mindful of ensuring that we continue to offer COVID-safe online events in the form of webinars so that important discourse remains accessible for members of the community who are vulnerable to serious COVID disease.

ALHR's subcommittee focus on thematic human rights areas serves to increase the impact of our strategic advocacy and enables ALHR to efficiently target areas of critical focus for Australian human rights practice. It also continues to be an incredibly successful means to engage our members allowing them to concentrate on particular human rights issues and enabling ALHR to deliver a key promise to our paid membership by offering them a voice on human rights and law reform in Australia.

I would be remiss not acknowledging the hard work of the state and territory convenors. These members of the national committee are, under normal circumstances, able to interact with our membership on a face-to-face level that other members of the National Committee cannot. Over the past year the states and territories have been incredibly challenged by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic but they have continued to hold webinar-based events, made submissions on state-based issues and engaged with the media on many and varied human rights issues and been there to encourage our membership.

I thank all the convenors for their hard work and encourage you all to actively seek out the members in your state or territory, hold regular meetings and actively pursue the protection of human rights on a state and territory level.

We are very fortunate to have such a democratically robust, horizontal and largely consensus-based organisation where the ALHR National Committee and the EMC are both composed of a diverse array of erudite leaders in different fields who have provided an infinite wellspring of inspiration and education. Of course, none of this would be possible without the commitment and engagement of our marvellous membership across Australia and around the globe.

5. To elect office bearers for the forthcoming year.

Kerry notes any late nominations to be accepted. Sangeeta seconded.

Kerry to confirm that office bearers have been elected as follows:

- President: Kerry Weste
- Vice President: Nicholas Stewart
- Treasurer: Katherine Hinton
- Secretary: Anna Kennett

Valerie – accepted.

Ordinary Members EMC (x6)

1. Valerie Heath
2. Dr Natalia Szablewska
3. Georgia Burke
4. Anthony Hallal
5. Andrea Rogers
6. Vacant

Nicholas S – accepted.

Confirm Nominees from state and territory committees:

- (i) ACT: Sophie Trevitt and Jessica Elliott
- (ii) New South Wales: Sarah Battril and Talya Jaffe
- (iii) Northern Territory: Isobel Milnes
- (iv) Queensland: Ella Furlong
- (v) South Australia: Anna Kennet
- (vi) Tasmania: Johanna Byrne
- (vii) Victoria: Vacant
- (viii) Western Australia: Georgia Kalyniuk; Zubayr Abrahams

Confirm appointments to thematic subcommittees

- (i) Business and Human Rights: Senior Co-Chairs Dr Natalia Szablewska and Lara Douvartzidis, Youth Chair Milli Jones
- (ii) Child Rights: Kerry Weste
- (iii) Disability Rights: Natalie Wade;
- (iv) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: vacant - recruitment underway
- (v) Freedoms: Valerie Health
- (vi) Human Right Act; Naomi Gould;
- (vii) Indigenous Rights: Johanna Byrne
- (viii) LGBTI: Nicholas Stewart; Georgia Burke
- (ix) Refugees: Jessica Bayley; Caitlin Caldwell
- (x) Women and Girls: Senior Co-Chairs, Cassandra Bourke Tania Penovik, Assistant Chair Elaine Stops
- (xi) Environment and Human Rights - Senior Co-Chairs Huong Tran, Chris Caskey, Fia Hamid-Walker, Youth Chairs, Annika Reynolds and Claudia Hodge

6. Any other business

N/A – Kerry thanked by both Nicholas S and Nat W for her work.