

ALHR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026 : SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Membership of Executive Management Committee AGM held June 2025 following people were elected to ALHR's Executive Management Committee at that meeting:

a. Executive:

- i. President - Nicholas Stewart
- ii. Vice President - Kerry Weste
- iii. Treasurer - Melinda Ch'ng
- iv. Secretary - Dr. Katherine Fallah

b. Ordinary Members for Governance

- i. Associate Professor Dr. Tania Penovic
- ii. Georgia Burke
- iii. Dr. Natalia Szablewska
- iv. Claudia Robinson
- v. Kate Gauld
- vi. Stephanice Lee

c. Changes to elected position during the 2025-2026 year:

- i. ALHR's secretary Dr Katherine Fallah resigned and the causal vacancy was filled pursuant to clause 14(d) of the ALHR Rules 2017. The Executive Management Committee by majority decision appointed ALHR member Maria Kiourkas as ALHR Secretary. We are very pleased to receive Maria's nomination for AGM election to continue in the position of Secretary.
- ii. Ordinary Member for Governance, Stepahnie Lee, stepped away from duties on the Executive Management Committee to take maternity leave. The causal vacancy was filled pursuant to clause 14(d) and of the ALHR Rules 2017. The Executive Management Committee by majority decision appointed ALHR member, barrister, Valerie Heath. We are very pleased to receive Valerie's nomination for AGM election to continue in the position of Ordinary Member for Governance.
- iii. Ordinary Member for Governance, Kate Gauld, stepped away from duties on the

Executive Management Committee due to capacity constraints. The causal vacancy was filled pursuant to clause 14(d) and of the ALHR Rules 2017. The Executive Management Committee by majority decision appointed ALHR member, barrister, Madeleine Bridgett. We are very pleased to receive Madeleine's nomination for AGM election to continue in the position of Ordinary Member for Governance.

d. Recognition of non-elected contributions to the Executive Management Committee.

- i. ALHR recognises and thanks Giancarlo de Vera for their significant contributions to the Executive Management Committee.
- ii. ALHR recognises and thanks staff at John Connolly and Partners for their pro bono media support for members of the Executive Management Committee and the National Committee.

2. National Committee - non-elected roles appointed by the Executive Management Committee following receipt of expressions of interest.

a. Specialist Thematic Committees

- i. Business and Human Rights:
 1. Dr Natalia Szablewska
- ii. Disability Rights:
 1. Harry Rutner
 2. Giancarlo de Vera
- iii. Democratic Freedoms:
 1. Valerie Health
- iv. Human Right Act:
 1. Kate Gauld
 2. Claudia Robinson.
 3. HRA4NSW: Kerry Weste
- v. Indigenous Rights:
 1. Johanna Byrne
 2. Grace Nuag
- vi. LGBTIQ+ Rights:
 1. Nicholas Stewart

2. Georgia Burke
- vii. Refugee Rights:
 1. Jessica Bayley
 2. Caitlin Caldwell
- viii. Women and Girls' Rights:
 1. Associate Professor Dr Tania Penovik,
 2. Dr Amira Atfab,
 3. Dr Jane Alver
 4. Tracy Cole
- ix. Environment and Human Rights:
 1. Annika Reynolds
 2. Melanie Montalban
- x. Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: vacant

b. State and Territory Committees for 2025/2026:

- i. New South Wales:
 1. Sophie Leaver,
 2. Stephanie Lee,
 3. Grace Cameron-Lee
- ii. Western Australia:
 1. Dr Jackie Mapulanga
- iii. Tasmania:
 1. Johanna Bryne
- iv. Victoria:
 1. Grace Nuag
- v. ALHR currently has vacancies for convenors in the Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. These have been advertised and the Executive Management Committee is considering expressions of interest received.

3. Governance Updates:

- a. ALHR updated the following internal policies during 2025/2026:
 - i. Financial Approvals Policy
 - ii. Conflict of Interest Policy
 - iii. Direct Debit Authorisation Policy
 - iv. Referrals for Legal Assistance Policy

4. Membership of ALHR

- a. ALHR launched paid membership in April 2015. There are now six categories of membership, following the addition of the monthly supporter category.
- b. Membership in 2025/2026 has been impacted by the cost of living crisis. ALHR has tried to absorb these pressures whilst retaining long-standing members. When requested on the basis of financial hardship ALHR has offered refunds, discounted concession memberships or extensions of time for renewals.
- c. Membership renewals have also been impacted by IT issues with the ALHR's website and membership system due to outmoded systems. ALHR has therefore made a significant investment for a small organisation with very limited funds in order to facilitate the build of an entirely new website and paid membership system. The new system will roll out early in the next AGM year (2026/2027)
- d. Paid membership for 2025 year currently stands at 794 and we have 5,961 active subscribers/supporters comprised of Australian lawyers, barristers, judicial officers, legal academics, law students.

5. Social Media

- a. X (formerly Twitter) – 6,089 followers
 - i. ALHR has stepped away from any X presence for ethical reasons.
- b. Instagram- 1,163 followers
- c. LinkedIn - 4,713 Page + 1,501 group pages
- d. BlueSky - launched 2024: 876
- e. Facebook: 7,200 followers

End Report: Prepared by ALHR Secretary Maria Kiorkas, 24 May 2026