

SAFE MOTHERHOOD FOR ALL AUSTRALIA INC

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday 27 November 2020

1. **Present** Joan Garvan, Ian Howie, Toni Hackett, Mary Kirk, Declan O’Keeffe, Ellen O’Keeffe
2. **Apologies** Daniel O’Keeffe, Julia Willoughby, Vanessa Owen, Clare Wolski, Maryam Khazeli-Dobson
3. **Minutes** 2020 Annual General Meeting, voted to adopt the 2019 AGM minutes
Proposed by: Joan Garvan
Seconded by: Ellen O’Keeffe
4. **Reports** **President’s Report - Ms Joan Garvan**

A defining feature of 2020 has been COVID 19 which has meant significant changes to our hopes for the year. We have needed to hold back on our plans and change procedures, including numerous zoom meetings, nevertheless, we have pressed on and I think made some significant achievements.

1. We have revised and updated the SMFA homepage, the Board position descriptions, the meeting procedures, and the policies and procedures. We will be having, furthermore, a special meeting after our AGM to discuss and potentially formalize a change of name from Safe Motherhood for All to Maternal Health Matters. We have recognised gaps in the knowledge and expertise of the board and have developed a call for an expression of interest that we will circulate with relevant networks after the AGM.

Throughout the coming year we have noted a series of topics and plan to meet bimonthly, one month for Board meetings and the other for discussion. Furthermore, we have highlighted projects, aims and ambitions for the coming year.

2. A second series of the SMFA Dignity Survey ran online from August to the end of October 2020, with the results being launched soon after this AGM.

3. A joint project with the Canberra Mothercraft Society is in the process of producing a video: Right Birth Your Choice planned to be launched in early 2021. This will be expanded with an education package that focuses on choosing where to birth and choosing health professionals.

4. Earlier this year the ACT government released its Report on Inquiry into Maternity



Services in the ACT and not long before the October election the government reported on its response to the Assembly. We have requested appointments with the Chief Minister, Andrew Barr, the Leader of the Greens, Shane Rattenbury, the Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith, and the newly appointed Human Rights Commissioner.

5. SMFA joined the Equality Rights Alliance. The ERA advocates for sixty-plus organisations representing women across Australia. Through this network we have contributed to their Budget submission, and other related papers, raising the profile of maternal health with the federal government and within this broader network.

6. Throughout the year SMFA representatives have met with members of parliament for both the ACT government and the Federal government.

7. Media Strategy – throughout the year we have found difficulties in having our Press Releases taken-up by the media. We had a zoom discussion in this regard with Jane Caro. In this she talked about developing a narrative that we can pitch to the media, with the suggestion that we broaden our message to include the early years and that we consider a strategy so as to incorporate our core messages with related education programs in colleges or High Schools.

8. COVID 19 thwarted our plans to host a symposium bringing together representatives of a range of maternity consumer organisations to discuss the formation of an alliance to advocate for improved maternity services.

However, we have been working with maternity consumer groups Maternity Choices and Maternity Consumer Network, and facilitated by Pregnancy, Birth and Beyond Media to present a highly successful series of Facebook Live panels. The panels are hosted on a joint Facebook page: Maternal Mental Health Matters Australia 2020 and remain available to view online, they include:

- a) World Maternal Mental Health Day, Panel:
- b) Birth Trauma Week, Panel:
- c) Consumer response, Panel:
- d) Consumer advocates, Panel:
- e) There are plans for a forthcoming panel of Health practitioners, including a rep from SMFA.

The consumer advocates panel was accompanied with an online letter campaign urging the Federal government to institute recommendations from their report Woman-centred care: Strategic directions for Australian maternity services. You can see the campaign up until early December here.

9. We are planning to release a position statement on the First 1000/2000 Days and hope to contribute to these discussions.

10. We look forward to the release of the documentaries Birth Time and Birthing on Country and will work to support and promote them.



I have enjoyed my time as President and thank the board for their patience and commitment to the ongoing work in the promotion of best practice for maternal health across Australia.

Treasurer's Report - Mr Declan O'Keeffe

Balance Sheet - For the Period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

	Assets	\$
Current Assets		4224.20
Non Current Assets		0.00
Total Assets		
	Liabilities	\$
Current Liabilities		0.00
Non Current Liabilities		0.00
Total Liabilities		0.00
Net Assets		4224.20
Equity		
Opening Balance		2240.20
Net Surplus (deficit) for the period		1984.00
TOTAL Equity		4224.20

In the opinion of the Board the financial report:

- Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Safe Motherhood for All Inc. at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1991
- At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that Safe Motherhood for All Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

Thank you to Joan and Declan.

Vote to accept the reports:

- Proposed by: Toni Hackett
- Seconded by: Ellen O'Keeffe

5. Election of Board Members

Maryam Khazeli-Dobson, Emma Baldock and Ian Howie have resigned from the Board and the board extends it sincere thanks for their contributions to our work.



Joan Garvan, Mary Kirk, Ellen O’Keeffe and Toni Hackett’s term on the Board expires. All have nominated to stay on the Board

Following the acceptances of nominations, there are three temporary vacancies. As per the Constitution, Executive Positions will be decided at the first meeting of the Board in 2021 and the remaining Board vacancies will be filled as temporary vacancies by members of the Association as per the Section 13.9 of the Constitution.

6. AGM Meeting Closure 1000.