

MINUTES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023 **VICTORIAN PSYCHOLOGISTS ASSOCIATION INC** **THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2024 @ 12:30PM**

AGM Meeting held Via Zoom

1. Opening of meeting by Vice President Dr Daniel Simsion

Acknowledgement of Country and opening remarks

Vice President Dr Daniel Simsion opened the meeting at 12.30pm and thanked members for their attendance online.

Daniel thanked members of the VPA Committee for their ongoing commitment to the VPA, including:

President: Megan Chapman

Secretary: Lisa Alcock

Treasurer: Jacquie Evans-Barker

Ordinary Members: Viv Lebnan

Ella Sexton

Helen Jeges

Emma Salt

Ania Krysztofiak

Sam Splatt

Jodie Wilson

Anastasia Sagris-Desmond

Dave Reid

Daniel thanked all of the team at the MSAV for the support they provide psychology members navigating workplace issues.

Daniel reflected on the strength of the VPA; where we've come and where we're going!

2. Minutes of VPA AGM 18 October 2023

"That the minutes of the Victorian Psychologists Association Inc AGM dated 18 October 2023 are a true and accurate record of proceedings."

Moved: Viv Lebnan

Seconded: Jacquie Evans-Barker

Carried unanimously

3. Welcome and Address by VPA Secretary Lisa Alcock

Our Union has grown and is growing. This is because we work hard to represent the interests of psychologists everyday! Thank you to the following groups for achieving this:

1. Our incredible VPA Committee
2. The entire MSAV industrial and support team
3. Every single one of our Psychology Workplace Delegates
4. All union members for taking control, engaging with and owning our union!

Our *small but mighty* Union is the largest Union dedicated just to psychologists in the country. That's something to be proud of! The VPA is a member of the National Health Services Union. The HSU has 110,000 members, and has grown this year to be the 8th largest Union in the country. *Which is pretty incredible*. We have plans to grow to 150,000 members.

Why is this important?

When workers act together, and we use our strength, just like in enterprise bargaining, we achieve great things!

In the last 18 months, the Fair Work Act has had some pretty incredible changes. Some of these changes include:

1. The right to disconnect
2. Significant improvements to delegates rights in the workplace
3. Improvements to fixed term employment
4. Pay secrecy has been eliminated
5. Superannuation is now paid on government paid parental leave
6. Really significant wage increases in Modern Awards for aged care workers and nurses
7. Improvements to flexible work and family and domestic violence leave entitlements
8. Really significant changes to labour hire laws

Our collective unions have campaigned for these changes. This includes our national HSU and psychologists. You and all of our union colleagues are the reason these changes have been made.

All of these changes are really positive wins for working people, and you get to take a moment to own the win!

Finished by discussing the gender based undervaluation case before the Fair Work Commission. Our incredible VPA Committee Members Sam Splatt and Ella Sexton have contributed a herculean amount of labour to support this process. We anticipate a decision from the Commission in early 2025 and hope that this will support bargaining next year.

4. Receive the Annual Finance Report and the Auditor's Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024

Treasurer Jacquie supported members through the annual financial report. There were no questions or concerns raised.

"That the annual financial report and the auditor's statement for the year ended 30 June 2024 be adopted by the VPA."

Moved: Helen Jeges

Seconded: Ania Krysztofiak

Carried unanimously

5. Appointment of Auditors for the financial year 2024 – 2025

"That BGL Partners be appointed as Auditors for the next financial year 2024 – 2025."

Moved: Sam Splatt

Seconded: Anastasia Sagris-Desmond

Carried unanimously

6. Member of the Year – Rosemary Kelly Award

Lisa introduced the Rosemary Kelly member of the year award.

The VPA created the member of the year award in Rosemary's name to recognise the really incredible contribution that Rosemary made to the VPA.

Rosemary always challenged the orthodoxy of management of health service employers; and never backed down when bad management was trying to get away with undermining members' rights. Without her contribution, many of the benefits members enjoy today might not have come about. *Rosemary was described as an iron fist in a velvet glove!*

Our Member of the Year Award is awarded to a VPA member who shows up to support psychologists, encourages colleagues and advocates for worker rights.

This year following nominations from workplaces and feedback from psychologists, the VPA awarded 2 psychologists member of year: Daniel Simsion and Jodie Wilson! Congratulations.

Close of meeting: Meeting closed at 1.12pm

63 members present