



Australian Council of Deans of Health Science Meeting

Thursday 24 February 2022

By Zoom

NOTES

Chair: Professor Esther May, University of SA

Present

Canberra University	Jennie Scarvell (proxy for Michelle Lincoln)
Central Queensland University	Michelle Belligan
Charles Sturt University	Megan Smith
Curtin University	Helen McCutcheon
Deakin University	Jenny Watts
Edith Cowan University	Natalie Ciccone
Flinders University	Chris Brebner
Griffith University	David Neumann
La Trobe University	Russell Hoye
Monash University	Terry Haines
QLD University of Technology	Patsy Yates
RMIT	Catherine Itsiopoulos
The University of Adelaide	Paul Rothmore (proxy for Rachel Gibson)
University of NSW	Lisa Keay
University of Queensland	Blake McKimmie (proxy for Pauline Ford, Bruce Abernethy)
University of Southern Queensland	Marion Gray
University of Sydney	Mark Halaki (proxy for Josh Burns)
University of WA	Rhonda Clifford
University of Wollongong	Paul Stapley
Western Sydney University	Greg Kolt

Apologies

Charles Darwin University	Dominic Upton
Edith Cowan University	Moira Sim
University of Newcastle	Charlotte Rees
University of SA	Roger Eston, Shylie McIntosh
University of Sunshine Coast	John Lowe
University of Southern Queensland	Glen Coleman

Australian Catholic University	Suzanne Kuys
Charles Sturt University	Michael Curtin
Federation University	Dara Twomey
James Cook University	Ian Wronski, Lee Stewart
University of Tasmania	Nuala Bryne, Denise Fassett

In attendance

Jen Coulls, Executive Officer ACDHS

Helen McFarlane, Policy Officer ACDHS

Kathy Nguyen, Associations Forum (for item 2.1)

The meeting opened at 2.35pm

	<p>Welcome, introductions and apologies</p> <p>Jen Coulls welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were recorded (as above)</p> <p>Proxies for members were noted.</p>
1.	<p>Previous meeting</p> <p>Confirmation of notes of previous meeting The notes of the meeting 26 October 2021 were accepted.</p> <p>Business Arising The action register was considered, noting items awaiting further action or completed.</p>
2.	<p>Decision items</p> <p>2.1 Governance Review</p> <p>Kathy Nguyen from Associations Forum outlined the options for becoming an independent, legally constituted entity to support Council’s decision-making on the future governance of ACDHS. Options presented were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporated association • Company limited by guarantee • Stay as is <p>Establishing the case for incorporation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition by outside organisations and governments • Protection for members • Limits liability • Entity is sued, not individual/s

- Credibility and legitimacy
- Ownership of assets and liabilities
- Easier to sign contracts, get insurance etc (if unincorporated, an individual would have to sign any contracts and be legally liable for the contract).
- Ease of succession from member to member and Director to Director as this would be set out in the constitution.
- A new independent entity is created and is more than a gathering of interests
- Clarity on tax arrangements – e.g if an event makes a profit, is it taxable and who pays?

Steps to incorporate

- Develop constitution
- Consultation/consent with members
- Lodge application to incorporate with regulator

It is proposed that the new entity be in place/launched with a new Board at the October face to face meeting in Sydney.

The following matters were raised by members:

- Where/how will we operate
- Affordability of application and annual fees
- Ongoing reporting requirements/administrative burden
- Potential for conflict of interest, ie members are obligated by law to work in the best interests of the organisation
- Engagement with the membership under a new structure

Charity status:

An organisation is a 'registered charity' if it is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). To become a registered charity:

- the organisation must be not-for-profit.
- any profit made by a not-for-profit organisation can only be used to further the aims or purposes of the organisation. It can't be shared between shareholders or members.
- all profits are put back into the organisation to continue to pay for its activities and functions and to achieve its mission.

The key benefit of being a charity is being eligible to apply for charitable tax concessions, as well as benefits associated with the public's perception and trust of registered charities

Key requirements in constitution for NFP taxation status

1. Objects – not operating for profit of members as demonstrated by the strategic plan
2. No distribution to members clause
3. To be registered as a charity, a not-for profit must have charitable purposes that are for 'the public benefit'.

A charity's purpose is for the public benefit if achieving this purpose would be of benefit to the public generally or a sufficient section of the public. The Charities Act 2013 lists twelve charitable purposes. ACDHS would qualify under

- advancing health
- advancing education

It was resolved that:

1. In principle there was strong support to pursue incorporation.
2. Members, particularly those members who were not present at the meeting or whose proxy did not have the authority to 'vote', be given further information upon which to make a decision.
3. A short report be prepared by the Executive Officer and circulated out of session to members that details the costs involved in incorporation including ongoing costs.
4. Subject to members receiving further information, a 'vote' be taken to incorporate/not incorporate.

Action: EO to circulate further information to members by 10 March 2022

2.2 Development and evaluation of training models to facilitate the rapid scaling of the aged care allied health workforce – proposal

Terry Haines presented to members the proposal that will be the subject of a campaign by ACDHS in the lead up to the Federal election.

Key points:

- There is widespread concern that progressing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care has stalled, particularly in the light of fiscal constraints brought about by COVID. The Task Force has determined that there is a need to develop aged-care specific training and placement models in allied health and proposes that this form the centrepiece of the Federal Election Strategy.
- A Taskforce of Council has been established to formulate the ACDHS 2022 Federal Election Strategy for Council approval with the key theme of: Building the Allied Health Aged Care Workforce.
- The proposal calls for \$5m in federal funding to support a dedicated program of work that supports the development, evaluation and scaling up of models of allied health education placement specifically tailored for the aged care sector. Funding could be obtained by directly funding ACDHS, an open grant call or through the MRFF.
- Related to the above it is proposed that ACDHS fund a piece of work to model the likely demand for allied health workforce in the aged care sector.
- A communication strategy will be developed by the Secretariat in consultation with the Task Force to promote and explain the ACDHS position.
- It is proposed that letters of support be obtained from key influencers in the sector. Selected peak organisations would be approached that represent: Aged Care Industry (eg LASA - Leading Age Services Australia); Aged Care Consumers (eg National Seniors); and members of the Australian Allied Health Leadership Alliance

The following issues were raised by members:

- Aged care remains a high profile topic in the community.
- The need for an advocacy strategy to support the proposal/how do we get this in front of decision makers.
- The process for funding the modelling study, ie EOI

- An election must be held no later than end May. This will present a timing challenge in capitalising on the election. Consideration could be given to targeting 2023/24 Federal budget (submissions would be due November 2022).
- Key stakeholder support will be a critical success factor in the current environment.
- The modelling study will be useful in any event.

Council resolved to:

1. Support the proposal.
2. Approve funding of \$30,000 to undertake the demand modelling study

Action: T Haines to scope the EOI for applications from Council to undertake the modelling study. Secretariat to work with the Taskforce on advocacy

2.3 2022 Symposium Project Plan and Budget

Members considered the project plan and budget as outlined in the meeting papers. In summary:

The Symposium will be held at the Sydney Masonic Centre on Friday 21 October 2022. A dinner will be held the evening before to co-incide with the Council meeting (Thursday 20 October 2022).

The Symposium explores:

- stakeholder perspectives on the achievement and relevance of graduate attributes.
- the role of industry professionals in curriculum development.
- how research collaborations with external university partners deliver and strengthen translation to practice skills in our graduates.
- the influence of the quality of placement experiences on the development of graduate attributes for health sciences students.
- The capacity of Interprofessional Education and collaborative practice to act as an enabler of graduate attributes

Target audience:

- Leaders from academia
- Employers
- Placement providers
- Education researchers
- Professional regulators

The programme is in its early stages of development and includes a mix of presentations and panel discussions involving industry, students and educators. In addition, it is proposed that early career academics from across the ACDHS membership be invited to submit 'project pitches' that speak to the theme. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present at the Symposium with up to three being awarded a \$10,000 grant to undertake their projects.

The following was raised by members:

- More detail/context about the ECA grants is required.
- The governance, criteria and process by which applications would be adjudicated requires greater clarity including how to manage any conflict of interest.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether it is appropriate for ACDHS to be providing grants given its mission. • The potential negative impact on ACDHS in providing grant funding for its members while at the same time pursuing charitable status. <p>It was resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve up to \$58,000 from Council reserves to fund the 2022 Symposium. 2. That the Symposium Organising Committee undertake further consideration of the ECA project pitch component of the program and provide detailed rationale, governance and assessment criteria for Council’s consideration. <p>Action: Symposium Organisation Committee</p>
<p>3.</p> <p>3.1</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>May meeting</p> <p>Given the ongoing challenging operating environment, members were canvassed as to the viability of holding the face to face meeting scheduled in May.</p> <p>It was resolved to reschedule the full day face to face meeting on 26 May to a 2 hour Zoom.</p> <p>Action: EO to reschedule</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Information items</p> <p>The Secretariat, Finance and HPESG reports was noted.</p>

The meeting closed at 3.55

Next meeting: 26 May 2022 by Zoom