

Oxfam Australia – Board Meeting 17 April 2015

The board meeting received a briefing from the CE on recent activities and events. Chief among these were the response to the devastation wrought on Vanuatu by Cyclone Pam and the excellent response by our field officers and Oxfam Australia team; and the hosting of Oxfam International meetings in Melbourne in late March of the Executive Board and Board of Supervisors. Encouraging progress is being made in pursuing the Oxfam 2020 Project which has the ultimate purpose of creating One Oxfam. It was a particular pleasure to have the company of two southern affiliates, one being South Africa and the other being Brazil, attending for the first time as an observer at these Melbourne meetings.

The CE reported on a number of review processes that are on foot to ensure the agency's effectiveness and success into the future. These pertained to income planning, expenditure and Oxfam Trading. An Enterprise Agreement for Oxfam Australia is under negotiation, due for implementation mid-year.

The CE also reported on intensifying engagement and campaigning for best possible outcomes on foreign aid in a difficult environment. It was pleasing to see Oxfam playing a central role in influencing the aid debate.

Management discussed preparations for Oxfam's 2015 annual report and sought the board's input.

A session was held with a number of Oxfam country directors, who were convening in Australia, to enable the board to hear of their field work and gain a stronger appreciation of Oxfam's work in the developing countries where we do our work.

One of Oxfam Australia's valued members of its leadership team, Penny Harrison, is about to leave us to assume a senior position with another NGO – the board was pleased to be able to thank Penny for her contribution and wish her good luck.

The afternoon session of the board meeting was taken by receiving and discussing the work of the Finance Audit and Risk; the Public Engagement and Governance Committees and concluded its meeting with discussion of the CE's annual performance review.

The board meeting was followed immediately by the launch of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Strategic Plan for 2014 – 16 and the board participated in a forum featuring three Indigenous thought leaders who canvassed a range of topical issues in relation to Australia's First Peoples.

Dennis Goldner, Chair