

Oxfam Australia – Note of Board Meeting, August 2017

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) board met in Melbourne on 4 August for the fourth time in 2017.

The meeting commenced with a report by the Chief Executive (CE) covering both the external and internal environment. The subjects of:

- A progress report on the Gender Justice work, which is advancing but requires a strong focus as an important commitment of the agency
- International matters including the CE's significant continuing involvement in the Oxfam 2020 project and new regional structures in the Asia/Pacific area in which OAU has governance roles
- A program update including a briefing on forthcoming advocacy campaigns
- Launch of the next Australian Humanitarian Partnership Agreement and OAU's response
- Update on the DFAT Accreditation process
- Preparation for the ACFID Code of Conduct review
- Internal staff matters
- Partnerships with external organisations

were presented and discussed, among other matters.

The board resolved to upgrade its connection with OAU's Indigenous programs by converting the former ATSIP Reference Group into the ATSIP Advisory Committee, with future participation of two OAU board members, and meetings held proximate to Board meetings to enable greater strategic engagement.

An Oxfam International Affiliate Operational Plan update was presented next, in a new and more informative and easier to overview format. This was followed by a review of matters in the purview of the Finance Risk and Audit Committee, including a detailed review of the 2017 accounts. Reports were received from the Public Engagement Committee, including plans for supporter and member engagement forums scheduled for later this year, and from the Governance Committee mainly in relation to policies and reporting.

The board received and approved a proposal for a thoroughgoing review of the Trading strategy operations which is due for reporting early in 2018 and implementation later in that year.

The Board Nominations Committee (BNC) report noted the now approved appointment of Geoff McClellan to the board from an excellent field of 40 candidates and the forthcoming refresh of the membership of the BNC.

The Board farewelled Michael Wright whose term on the board has come to an end. Michael has elected for lifestyle reasons not to seek reappointment. The board and management expressed their appreciation to Michael for his service and counsel over the past 4 years.

Helen Szoke's performance appraisal for the 2017 year was reviewed and approved.

OAU's auditors, EY, attended the meeting to present the results of their 2017 audit. It was pleasing for OAU to receive an unqualified audit opinion. The statutory accounts were approved by the board.

The Annual General Meetings of both OAU and Oxfam Australia Trading (OAT) were held according to the prescribed format. In the former, Geoff McClellan's appointment and renewal of board terms for Dennis Goldner and Ann Byrne were confirmed. In the latter, Peter Croft (Chair), and Melissa Houghton and Greg Ridder were confirmed as new board members.

Dennis Goldner, Chair
August 2017