

Oxfam Australia Board Meeting 9 August 2019

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) board met in Melbourne on Friday 9 August 2019 with 12 board members attending, plus our staff participant and observer. On this occasion, the board welcomed a new board member Peter Bars (senior partner at Deloitte), farewelled Judi Moylan and our Chief Executive Helen Szoke, and had the company for the first time of our new CE, Lyn Morgain. The board expressed great appreciation for the contribution in service to Oxfam and its governance of those departing (which included COO Tony McKimmie).

After formalities, the board received and discussed the CE's report which traversed company performance; the massive change process currently underway; programs in the Pacific, our First Nations program here in Australia, and programs we support as a member of the Oxfam confederation; developments at Oxfam International; safeguarding matters; closure of Trading and organisation culture including considering the results of two significant pieces of work on culture. In adjunct to the CE's report, the board had an extensive discussion with management about progress of the major CRM project.

The board then heard a presentation about a highly innovative Oxfam project in Vanuatu whereby emergency cash payments are being trialled with people affected by disasters through blockchain technology using the simplicity of direct mobile phone communications. The board expressed its excitement in seeing leading edge technology being applied to the benefit of the people we seek to help.

The agency's auditors EY presented their report on OAU's 2019 audit and took questions and discussion. Pleasingly, OAU has once again received an unqualified opinion from the auditors while proposing a number of items for improvement, none major. The 2019 accounts were signed. EY was re-appointed as auditor for the 2020 financial year.

The Financial Reports were presented next, with discussion about financial performance, balance sheet strength incl. reserve levels, cashflow, other KPIs, our risk profile and budgetary matters. OAU is conducting a review of the performance of its property assets and discussion was held about this.

The annual Carbon and Sustainability Report was tabled and considered. Committee reports were received then from chairs of the Governance and Public Engagement Committees, and Tim McMinn was appointed the new chair of PEC following on from Judi Moylan's retirement. Minor amendments were made to the Board Charter..

In Board matters, appointments were confirmed to Standing Committees of the Board, chair succession was discussed, and the board agreed to accept an observer from the Observership Program for 2020, our fourth participant from Observership.

The Oxfam Australia Annual General Meeting was held with all required AGM tasks completed.

The meeting board concluded with an *in camera* session with feedback subsequently provided to the CE.

Dennis Goldner
Chair

August 2019