

Note of Oxfam Australia Board Meeting – 17 April 2020

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) board met for seven hours by virtual means on Friday 17 April. The full board was in attendance including Dr Judith Slocombe, whom the board warmly welcomed to her first meeting. Judith is immensely experienced in leadership, governance and management and is a valuable addition to the OAU board's capabilities.

COVID-19 has reached into every corner of the world including Oxfam, and as one would expect, this meeting was given over substantially to corona virus impacts and implications for OAU and Oxfam. First and foremost among these is care for the people Oxfam serves and for our teams around the world and in Australia, and our Chief Executive (CE) took the board through a briefing which demonstrated a comprehensive and thoughtful approach.

The financial impacts of COVID-19 are significant and the board spent considerable time discussing with this with management and the risks surrounding the situation. The entire charities and NFP sector including OUA have not been spared these impacts and many changes, some urgent, are necessary to secure Oxfam's future. The CE led a detailed discussion about actual and proposed responses and a transition plan for navigating OAU to the other end of the COVID crisis.

The global organisation has been developing a new strategic framework for the upcoming 10-year period. The board received a presentation and discussed and endorsed the strategic framework. The resultant strategy for OAU is expected to prioritise gender, climate and economic justice and working alongside Australia's First Nations People.

The CE and board chair recently took part in global meetings (also by Zoom) and both reported back to the board on developments at the global level. The meeting then received reports on legal, risk and compliance matters, and reports from the First Nations and Public Engagement Committee chairs.

The meeting finished with a discussion on upcoming board composition and needs, a theme which will also be canvassed with the Board Nominations Committee in a meeting in several weeks.

Dennis Goldner

Board Chair

April 2020