



Australian Breastfeeding Association 2023 Annual General Meeting

Draft Minutes

**Friday 24 November 2023 at 7.00 pm
Via Zoom Webinar**

1. Welcome by Margaret Grove, President

7:01 pm Meeting opened. Quorum achieved with 21 participants, 3 proxies, 14 panellists. All warmly welcomed.

2. Acknowledgement of Country

Margaret Grove gave the Acknowledgement of Country.

Margaret outlined a number of Zoom webinar housekeeping items. Voting via polls was explained. Those attending who had submitted proxies will have their proxies null and void as it is expected that voting will occur in person.

Margaret introduced Dominique Bougoure, Louise Brown, Lauren Bukowski, Belinda Chambers, Katie Cross, Sally Eldridge, Genevieve Finey, Leila Forde, Claire Fraser, Daile Kelleher, Victoria Marshall-Cerins and Cate Uhe .

3. Attendance

Present: 35

Laura Allison, Keith Anderson, Joy Anderson, Kathryn Barwick, Dominique Bougoure, Louise Brown, Lauren Bukowski, Belinda Chambers, Deborah Court, Katie Cross, Sally Eldridge, Hilary Endacott, Charlotte Fielding, Genevieve Finey, Leila Forde, Claire Fraser, Sharon Green, Margaret Grove, Nerida Haines, Arianwen Harris, Laura Hughes, Naomi Hull, Daile Kelleher, Victoria Marshall-Cerins, Tahnee McBean, Caitlin McMahon, Mary Mifsud, Naomi Millgate, Lynn Ng, Antonia Norton, Elizabeth Oei, Amy Shannon, Karen Spetter, Kirsten Tannenbaum, Cate Uhe

Apologies: 1

Jemma Manwaring

Proxies: 3

Proxies were:

Leila Forde (on account that she couldn't vote as a host)

Margaret welcomed Lynn Ng as an incoming Board director.

4. Acceptance of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2022

Motion: To accept the minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on 25 November 2022.

Moved: Leila Forde

Second: Margaret Grove

CARRIED

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Poll</i>	26	0	5	31
<i>Proxies</i>	3	0	0	3
<i>TOTAL</i>	29	0	5	34

5. President's Report – Margaret Grove

Margaret presented her report as tabled in the Annual Report 2022-23.

Questions from the floor regarding the President's Report.

Question from Caitlin McMahon: "How many times has the D&I Committee met?"

Answer: There have been 7 meetings.

Margaret thanked the board directors, staff, and volunteers for all they have contributed to ABA this past year.

Motion: To accept the President's report.

Moved: Daile Kelleher

Second: Dominique Bougoure

CARRIED

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Poll</i>	30	0	0	30
<i>Proxies</i>	3	0	0	3
<i>TOTAL</i>	33	0	0	33

6. Treasurer's Remarks – Dominique Bougoure

Dominique provided an overview of ABA's financial statements which had been prepared and audited for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, and approved by the Board. A reminder was provided that the financial statements consolidated results from each of the ABA branches and the NSO, but do not include regions or groups.

The final result for the consolidated organisation was a deficit of \$175,086, which was slightly behind budget expectations. The key driver of the variance to budget was lower than expected revenue from sales activities, including memberships and resources, due to the unanticipated extended timeframes for completing the new ABA website. Total revenue was \$4.2m, which is an increase of \$42,000 versus the prior year. Membership income continued its downward trend, delivering \$345k in revenue during FY23. Pleasingly, the investment that the Association has made in the new website is now starting to pay off, with membership purchases starting to recover in recent months, with an average of 10 new memberships purchased per day through November 2023.

Workshops and seminars income was steady at just over \$400,000. Donations held flat at \$105,000. Income from Breastfeeding Friendly Workplaces increased slightly to \$167,000. Grants saw slightly higher grant monies compared to last year, which is largely associated with the new Bushfire Emergencies Grant from the Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources received during the year.

From an expense point of view, costs were well controlled with a decrease since prior year of \$45,000, and savings seen across most areas.

Overall, the Association's financial position remains strong, and we maintain healthy cash reserves into the new financial year.

Dominique acknowledged everyone in the Association who was recently involved in securing ongoing funding from the DOH for Helpline.

Motion: To accept the Statement of Income and Expenditure, Balance Sheet and reports of the Auditor of the Association for the period ended 30 June 2023.

Moved: Margaret Grove

Second: Daile Kelleher

CARRIED

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Poll</i>	28	0	1	29
<i>Proxies</i>	3	0	0	3
<i>TOTAL</i>	31	0	1	32

7. General Business – Special resolutions

Constitutional changes as recommended by the Board of Directors to amend Clause 9.4c) of the Constitution to:

An election by ballot of all Members shall be held and conducted in accordance with Rule 8.16. The ballot will be set in such a manner as to allow for a randomised order of candidate names on the voting ballot and will be accompanied by such directions as to the casting of votes as the Board may approve. The voting system for the election of nominees to fill the Available Seats will be as determined by the Board and described in the notice of ballot or ballot paper. The Elected Directors so elected will take office from the date of the next annual general meeting.

Motion: To accept the changes to the constitution

Moved: Cate Uhe

Second: Leila Forde

CARRIED

	<i>For</i>	<i>Against</i>	<i>Abstain</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Poll</i>	30	0	0	30
<i>Proxies</i>	3	0	0	3
TOTAL	33	0	0	33

Board received no questions on notice and opened for Questions from the floor. See Appendix 1.

8. i. Questions from the floor

See Appendix 1

9. Other Business

No other business discussed.

10. Meeting Close 7:46pm

Margaret thanked everyone for attendance and commented that it was great to see so many attend, including from all around the country.

Appendix 1

Further question from the floor

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Draft Minutes – Appendix 1

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Additional Questions from the Floor

Question from Caitlin McMahon:

Have number of current members increased/decreased?

Board Written Response:

Membership continued to decline over the year.

July 2022 = 4,767

July 2023 = 4,211

Nov 2023 = 4,141

Question from Laura Hughes:

The number of financial members is one clear indicator of how many mothers we are engaged with - this figure should be very clear?? And if the trend is down/up/steady!!

Board Written Response:

As above

Question from Caitlin McMahon

How is the app usage going?

We do not currently have good analytics for the app which means that user data is unavailable.

This functionality is currently in development and should be live in February's new release. Once the data is available we will be able to start reporting on app usage.