

Australian Medical Association Northern Territory Inc.

35th Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 28th May 2024

2/25 Parap Road, PARAP NT 0820

MINUTES

Meeting Opened: 18:05 hours

A/Professor Parker thanked everyone for attending, acknowledged the Larrakia and Arrernte people,

Traditional Custodians of the land on which we have this meeting today and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

1. **Present in Person**

A/Professor Robert Parker Dr Thomas Fowles

Dr John Zorbas Dr Bernard Westley

Mr Arun Mahajani Mrs Fiona Crombie

**Present via Teleconference**

Dr Howard Flavell Dr Cameron Scott

Dr Alexandra Farrell

1. **Apologies**

Dr Heather Cain Dr Dayna Duncan

Dr Rachel Hawker Dr Jasper Lin

Dr Sonja Janson

1. **Proxies to Dr John Zorbas**

Dr Hemanshu Patel Dr Franz Lemke

Dr James Moran Dr Danika Thiemt

Dr Adrian Nightingale Dr Brydie Purbrick

Mrs Fiona Crombie confirmed a quorum as per the AMA NT Constitution.

1. **Acceptance of Minutes from the AGM held on 26 April 2023**

The minutes from the meeting of 26 April 2023 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved by A/Professor Robert Parker and seconded by Dr John Zorbas that the minutes be accepted.

**Motion** **Carried**.

1. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

The Audit was made available to members via email.

The Trading Account is currently sitting at $117,272.32 and the Savings Account at $16,448.89.  
Membership numbers have been on a steady increase currently sitting at 254 with 119 medical students.

Payments to date to AMA NT Pty Ltd for the Management Agreement so far in 2024 is $50,000 and we are anticipating paying another $50,000 which is past practice and potentially another $10,000 this year due to an increase in membership.  
Work continues on data integrity on the database iMIS and AMA Q have a staff member who is working on improving current member benefits and sourcing additional ones eg Officeworks.

**Dr Howard Flavell, Treasurer**

There were no questions for the Treasurer by those present.

The Treasurer’s report was moved by Dr Howard Flavell and seconded by A/Professor Parker

**Motion** **Carried**

1. **President’s Report**

I would like to welcome you all to the 2024 AGM of AMA NT.

The 2023-2024 year has been an interesting one for AMA NT with some notable achievements.

It was good to catch up with AMA NT members in Central Australia in mid-January this year. The visit by myself and AMA NT staff was co-ordinated with and significantly assisted by Dr Dana Duncan, AMA NT Vice President. On Thursday, AMA NT hosted a function for existing members and new medical staff at Alice Springs Hospital at The Brewery. The evening event was well attended, and a number of members had discussions with the President about issues that concerned them. On Friday, AMA NT participated in the orientation for new interns at Alice Springs Hospital.

The new Australian Centre for Disease Control (ACDC) has been established. The NT AMA and national AMA played a significant role in the establishment of this important organisation to protect the health of Australians. The production of an AMA position statement along with constant lobbying during the Covid Pandemic was part of a process that persuaded Federal Labor to adopt the ACDC as an election commitment.

Another very good piece of news is the NT Government commitment for the proposed construction of a new morgue at RDH at a cost of $24 million dollars. AMA NT has been very concerned about the lack of dignified grieving facilities for Aboriginal families associated with the current morgue that was designed for a population half the current size of Darwin. It has constantly lobbied both the NT and Australian governments for an improved facility, and it is good to see this finally occurring.

AMA NT held regular meetings with former NT Health Minister Fyles and has had one meeting with current Health Minister Uibo. AMA NT has also had regular communication with the opposition Health Spokesperson Yan. There have been regular meetings with NT Health Department CEO Marco Briceno. One of the topics in the discussion with the CEO is appropriate laundry facilities for renal patients who reside at hostels in Darwin and who also suffer from skin infections such as scabies.

Following the repeal of prohibitions on the NT Government being able to develop its own legislation in respect to Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD), the NT Government has established an enquiry to look at potential VAD legislation in the NT. The enquiry is due to report back to the NT Chief Minister in July 2024. AMA NT has presented a submission to the Enquiry that featured the recently revised AMA Position statement on “Issues Arising at the End of Life”.

AMA NT locally as well as other AMA’s such as AMA Victoria have had a long-term interest in the significant amount of trauma related injuries related to scooter hire use in Darwin, particularly by inebriated customers. AMA NT thus welcomes the new scooter hire provider for Darwin that now has some introduced some protection in respect to inebriated users.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has released data that shows that NT Hospital ED’s are twice as busy as other hospitals in Australia. This shows that not much has changed since my letter to Ministers Hunt and Wyatt in 2019, noting the very high state of continuing acuity for NT Hospitals and seeking increased funding for NT Health services. This along with the epidemics of diabetes and renal disease along with 20% of Territory hospital beds being used to accommodate individuals who would be better located in nursing homes or disability housing underlie the continuing crisis in NT Hospitals with persistent Code Yellow situations and the unfortunate current situation not look like resolving any time soon!!.

I would like to thank AMA NT Council who have supported and advised me over the past year along with AMA NT staff, Ms Fiona Crombie and Ms Kerri Warthold.

Wishing members, their practices and the health system generally all the best for the coming year.

**A/Prof Robert Parker, President**

Dr John Zorbas and Dr Thomas Fowles questioned A/Professor on how AMA NT’s first meeting with the Minister Selena Uibo went and how the AMA felt about the ACDC being under control of the Health Department and was this an interim measure? There was a general discussion about both questions.

The President’s report was moved by A/Professor Robert Parker and seconded by Dr John Zorbas.

**Motion Carried**

1. **Vacation of Office & Declaration of Office Bearers**

Dr Parker stepped down as President and handed over to Mrs Fiona Crombie, Returning/Chief Executive

Officer.

**Nominations:**

**President** A/Professor Robert Parker Proposed by: Dr Robert Parker

Seconded: Dr Sonja Janson

***Immediate Past President*** Vacant

**Vice President** Dr Cameron Scott Proposed by: Dr Robert Parker

Seconded: Dr Cameron Scott

Dr John Zorbas Proposed by: Dr John Zorbas

Seconded: Dr Danika Thiemt

**Secretary / Public Officer** Dr Bernard Westley Proposed by: Dr Sonja Janson

Seconded: Dr Bernard Westley

**Treasurer** Dr Howard Flavell Proposed by: Dr Robert Parker

Seconded: Dr Howard Flavell

**Council Members** Dr David Chapman Proposed by: Dr Robert Parker

Seconded: Dr David Chapman

Dr Dayna Duncan Proposed by: Dr Robert Parker

Seconded: Dr Dayna Duncan

Dr Stephen Gourley Proposed by: Dr Stephen Gourley

Seconded: Dr David Chapman

Dr Sonja Janson Proposed by: Dr Bernard Westley

Seconded: Dr Sonja Janson

Dr Jasper Lin Proposed by: Dr Robert Parker

Seconded: Dr Jasper Lin

Dr Thomas Fowles Proposed by: Dr Thomas Fowles

Seconded: Dr John Zorbas

Dr Alexandra Farrell Proposed by: Dr Dayna Duncan

Seconded: Dr Alexandra Farrell

**Late Nomination** Dr Erica Musgrove Proposed by: Dr Erica Musgrove

Seconded: Dr Dayna Duncan

**Students -**

**Honorary Member / Historian** Mr Arun Mahajani

Dr Bernie Westley advised that he had applied for the Vice-President role? Mrs Crombie retrieved the

nominations and confirmed that he had indeed and apologised that she had missed this. Dr Westley

advised he was still keen for the position, however having two other very talented candidates he was

happy to stay as Secretary and Public Officer. Mrs Crombie apologised for the oversight.

**Election**

Mrs Crombie advised that under Clause 29 (1) of our Constitution as there are no contested positions all those nominated are duly elected.

**President:** There being only nomination at the AGM for the position of President, A/Professor Robert Parker was declared re-elected.

**Vice-Presidents**: There being only one nomination at the AGM for the positions of Vice-President, Dr Cameron Scott was declared re-elected with one vacant Vice-President position.

**Secretary:** There being only nomination at the AGM for the position of Secretary / Public Officer, Dr Bernard Westley was declared re-elected.

**Treasurer:** There being only nomination at the AGM for the position of Treasurer, Dr Howard Flavell was declared re-elected.

**Council Members:** The following nominations were elected to AMA NT Council:

Dr David Chapman – Councillor

Dr Sonja Janson – Councillor

Dr Stephen Gourley – Councillor

Dr Dayna Duncan – Councillor

Dr Jasper Lin – Councillor

Dr Thomas Fowles – Councillor

Dr Alexandra Farrell – Councillor

Under Clause 29 (2) and (3) nominations can be accepted from the floor. The following doctors were nominated to Council:

Dr Erica Musgrove – Councillor

**DiT Reps:** Dr Jasper Lin – Councillor

Dr Alexandra Farrell – Councillor

Dr Erica Musgrove - Councillor

**Student Rep:** The Student Representative role is as an Associate Member position with no voting rights. No applications or expressions of interest were received for this position. Mrs Crombie will send out an EOI to our student membership,

**Public Officer:** Dr Bernard Westley will remain in this role.

The AGM accepted and endorsed their nominations.

1. **Induction of President**

A/Professor Robert Parker was reinstated as AMA NT President for another term.

1. **Confirmation of position of Immediate Past President**

Under Clause 24 of the Composition of Council as outlined in Part 3 – Additional Details of the AMA NT Constitution, Dr Peter Beaumont is currently our Immediate Past President. It has been brought to AMA NT attention that Dr Beaumont is no longer registered with AHPRA and under Clause 9 (b) of our Constitution to be a member a person has to be currently registered as a medical practitioner with AHPRA. This position will now be made vacant.

**10. Appointments to various Federal AMA Council positions**

The following AMA Councils require a representative from the AMA NT.

**AMA Federal Council**

**AMA Council of General Practice**

**AMA Council of Public Hospital Doctors**

**AMA Council of Doctors-in-Training**

**AMA Council of Rural Doctors**

These positions will be formally confirmed at our first meeting in June 2024 when all Councillors can be

present.

1. **Other Business**

Nil

1. **There being no further business the AGM closed.**

Meeting closed at 18:30 hours.

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A/Professor Robert Parker

**President**