



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Voluntary Euthanasia Party

**11am Sunday 11 November 2018
North Sydney Leagues Club
Abbott St, Cammeray**

MINUTES

MEETING STARTED: 11.45am

1. ATTENDANCE:

Present: Kerry Bromson, Shayne Higson, Penny Hackett, Sandi Steep, Tom Buckley, Dermot Ryan.

In Attendance: Brian Beaumont Owles, Shirley Beaumont Owles, Errol Benvie, Peter Bower, Judith Daley, Deborah Ditchfield, Fiona Jackson, David Leaf, Max Littlefield, Jennie Lin, Kym Roberts, Elizabeth Saadeh, Russell Schirmer, Sarah Taylor, Donald West, Geoffrey Williams, Ian Wood.

Present by Proxy: Jan LeBrun, Donald McKern, Sally Millot, Joyce Parkes, Elvier Paschke, Winifred Paschke, Faith Reed, Kristina Shepherd, Pilar Tasende, Donald West.

Apologies: Kym Buckley, Julie Hanley, Tony Whelan.

2. Quorum

A quorum was confirmed, there being more than 5 members in attendance

3. Minutes of the Previous AGM

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28 October 2017 were accepted. Proposed Sandi Steep, seconded Russell Schirmer, carried.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

5. Presidents Report

The Convenor, Kerry Bromson reported as follows:

- a) It has been a busy time with an election in Victoria on 24 November 2018, preparations for NSW election on 23 March 2019, Shayne Higson running in the Wentworth by-election and deliberations about the Federal election to be held before May 2019.

- b) The Victorian Election is expected to be close although Labor are favourite. It is feared that the LNP would move to overturn the VAD Bill if they win. There are 87 candidates in the lower house. VEP is running in the Upper House with the aim of keeping the pressure on the issue of VAD and also to assist the Reason Party retain Fiona Patten's upper house seat.
- c) VEP NSW is about to launch an appeal for candidates. At least 15 are needed for a group ticket. Kerry acknowledged the close working relationship between VEP NSW, Dying with Dignity NSW, Christians for VE Choice and Doctors4 Assisted Dying Choice. Our cause is stronger together.

6. Presentation of 2017-2018 Audited Accounts

The audited accounts for the financial year ended 30 June 2018 were presented by the Treasurer, Sandi Steep. The audit was conducted by Bill White.

In summary for the period to 30 June 2018:

- a) Income was \$1800
- b) Expenditure was \$5201
- c) Cash at balance date was \$8,000

7. Election of Federal Executive

Nomination forms were tabled. As only one nomination was received for each position, the following people were elected unopposed:

Convenor - Kerry Bromson

Deputy Convenor - Shayne Higson

Secretary - Julie Hanley

Treasurer - Sandi Steep

Public Officer - Tony Whelan

Ordinary Members - Tom Buckley, Kym Buckley, Jennie Lin (nominated from the floor in the absence of a nomination for the third ordinary member position).

Dermott Ryan and Penny Hackett will continue as the representatives for VEP Victoria and VEP NSW respectively.

8. Victorian VEP Report

Dermott Ryan reported as follows:

- a) VEP Federal and NSW were thanked for their support and assistance for VEP Victoria (and Dermott personally) in the lead up to the election on 24 November 2018.
- b) VEP Victoria made the strategic decision to connect with the Reason Party – Fiona Patten was the driving force behind the Victorian VAD law. With rumours that the LNP planned to overturn those laws, VEP's purpose in running in the election in the Upper House was to shore up Fiona's position in her region and block VAD opponents and also to ensure that the name of VEP appeared on ballot papers in all upper house regions.
- c) With 380 upper house candidates and preferences distorted by the group voting ticket system a strategic preference deal was agreed with the Reason Party to give Fiona a better chance of winning her seat.
- d) The Victorian upper house has distinct regions each with 5 member and the preferences are very important to the outcome. VEP and Reason How to Vote cards

suggest putting VAD opponents last on the ballot with the aim of ousting MPs who might seek to overturn the VAD laws

- e) It was expected that it would be up to 2 weeks for the upper house results to be finalised.

9. VEP NSW Report

Shayne Higson (convenor) reported as follows:

- a) It is expected that another VAD Bill will come before NSW Parliament sometime in 2019. VEPNSW's intention is to draw the electorates attention of the upper house MPs who voted against the 2017 VAD Bill.
- b) It was planned to highlight opponents and support MPs who are likely to vote for the next Bill.
- c) The importance of the passage of the Victorian Laws to other states' campaigns can't be overstated and we would try and leverage their groundbreaking efforts in NSW.

10. Any Other Business not requiring notice

Penny Hackett gave an overview of the political landscape in NSW and the lessons learned from Dying with Dignity's campaign to support the failed 2017 VAD bill,

MEETING CLOSED: 12.30am