

SA SUPERANNUANTS – MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 8 February 2021

1 MEETING OPENED: 10.45 am approximately

PRESENT: Alan Raftery, Barry Grear, Brenton Pain, Eileen Pritchard, James Vandenberg, Lindsay Oxlad, Michael Evans, Peter Fleming, Peter Frick, Ray Hickman

APOLOGIES: Ian Beckingham, Keren Wicks. Max Jahn was prevented from joining the meeting by Zoom connection issues.

2 WELCOME:

Acting President James Vandenberg welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 3 Confirmation of Minutes of Committee Meeting 30 November 2020

Moved, Peter Fleming, that the previously circulated minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of 30 November 2020 be accepted as a correct record. Seconded, Ray Hickman. Carried.

Item 4.1 Contact with Victorian ex-SCOA group

Committee members noted Brenton Pain's mid-January contact with the working group of former SCOA Victoria members, and its plan to circulate SA Superannuants' letter of invitation to join and September 2020 newsletter.

James Vandenberg mentioned his opportunity to invite retirees from Australia Post in Victoria to join the Association. Committee members noted James would follow that up.

Item 4.2 Contact with Tasmanian Association

Brenton reported that the next Executive meeting of the Tasmanian Association of State Superannuants' Executive Committee was expected to consider the suggestion of a Zoom meeting to discuss matters of mutual interest and how out two Associations are approaching them.

Item 4.3 Results of email survey on possible new name

The Committee discussed the results of the email survey of 758 members as summarized in the February newsletter, noting that 258 (16% of total membership) had responded, with a majority of those (91%) favouring a change of the Association's name to

Association of Superannuant Taxpayers (AST)	19.8%, or
Australian Taxpaying Superannuants Association (ATSA)	20.2%, or
Taxpaying Superannuants Association (TPSA)	7.4%, or
Public Service Superannuants Australia (PSSA)	24.8%, or
Association of Public Sector Superannuants (APSS)	26.4%

Most Committee members thought that a final choice between the last two names should be offered. Most felt that a decision on a possible new name should be taken in April, to resolve the matter expeditiously while still allowing time to collate and consider the results of the reply-paid postal survey closing March 1st, offered through the newsletter to Association members unable to be consulted by email.

Moved, Peter Fleming, that subject to Committee consideration of the postal survey results, members be invited to choose either Public Service Superannuants Australia or the Association of Public Sector Superannuants as the Association's new name at the General Meeting in April, or at a Special General Meeting in April convened for that purpose. Seconded, Lindsay Oxlad. Carried.

It was agreed that James Vandenberg would outline the Committee's thinking on a potential new name at the Annual General Meeting on 22 February.

Item 4.4 Results of key directions survey

Ray Hickman noted that the 113 member responses to the key directions survey had indicated relatively strong support for pursuing outcomes with the most evident personal financial benefit, such as better indexation, an untaxed age pension, contributions past age 65, and a non – means tested Commonwealth Seniors Health Card. This compared with positive but milder support for more "technical" reform, such as fairer valuation of defined benefit pensions for transfer balance cap purposes. Ray commented on the challenges of presenting enough background on the more complex issues in a simple survey to bring out their key implications: eg, for the TBC formula of annual pension X 16 to be extended to means testing for all purposes.

Lindsay Oxlad commented on the importance of focusing on issues where there was an opportunity to have some real influence and get a result. Committee members noted how governments of both persuasions had long avoided fair indexation of civilian defined benefit pensions.

Ray agreed to explain at the AGM progress to date in deciding the key issues to be pursued.

Item 4.5 Committee roles for 2021

James Vandenberg noted the importance of having someone in the position of Vice President. Peter Fleming indicated that he was prepared to take the position provided he was able to step back from the duties as and when health considerations dictated or his voice faltered. Lindsay Oxlad confirmed that he would be willing to take the Assistant Secretary role. Committee members endorsed these arrangements. The Newsletter Co-ordinator position was discussed under Item 8.1.

Item 4.6 Arrangements for AGM 22 February

Committee members noted the arrangements for the Annual General Meeting, and that Michael Evans would contact Mac Benoy to see that all was in hand for his presentation.

Item 4.7 Dates of Committee and General meetings in 2021

Committee members agreed that general meetings would continue to be held on the last Monday of each month except for the April meeting coming forward to the 19th. The possibility of holding 2021 Committee meetings on the Tuesday or Thursday before each General Meeting was considered, given Keren Wicks' Monday commitments, but neither day was feasible. The Committee welcomed Keren's participation in the meetings she was able to join.

Item 5 Correspondence

Committee members noted the correspondence reported.

Item 6 Treasurer's Reports

The reports for November and December 2020 and January 2021 were noted by the Committee. Michael Evans had received no questions or comments after circulating them to Committee members. There had been little activity in January.

Michael advised that he would check with the auditor to clarify the qualification expressed in the draft 2020 audit report.

Item 7 Membership Officer's Report

The membership report to 23 December 2020 was noted.

Item 8 Newsletter

Ray Hickman advised that Peter Frick had sent the February newsletter to email members, and that the printed newsletter was at the Post Office.

Committee members discussed the possibility of Ariel Printing assembling the newsletter from contributors' input at a cost in the order of \$500 per issue, if it was not possible to find someone to take over newsletter co-ordination from Ray. This would require contributions to be quite structured, as the service would be essentially assembling only, not looking at content. The Committee accepted Ray's suggestion that he give some thought to how a trial of such a service might be set up, and that a job description or action sheet for another person to take over as Newsletter Co-ordinator would be prepared.

Peter Fleming offered to pilot a trial of any new process for directly providing newsletter items to the printer. James Vandenberg will encourage members at the AGM to consider volunteering as Newsletter Co-ordinator.

Item 8.2 Latest CPI figures

Ray Hickman outlined two possible methods for calculating a net change in the CPI when a negative change over one period is followed by a positive change in the next.

Item 8.3 Contact with MPs

The Committee noted SA Superannuants lack of contact with MPs and Senators over several months, and agreed with Ray that it was time to remind them of our existence, and that we now also represent Commonwealth scheme members. It was agreed that Ray will circulate a proposal for Committee members to develop into a contact strategy.

Item 9 Guest Speaker Coordinator's Report

Guest Speaker arrangements were held over for discussion at the next Committee meeting.

Item 10 Communications & Media

Committee members discussed whether a keeping a position called "Communications and Media" was still useful, and decided it was not. Moved, Peter Fleming, that the title Communications and Media be dispensed with. Seconded, Lindsay Oxlad. Carried.

Item 11 Qantas Club Report

Lindsay Oxlad noted that Virgin Australia's equivalent of the Qantas Club could also be considered as a member offering, or Rex's. Qantas Club and related matters were left for discussion at a later meeting.

Item 12.1 Updating the website

Brenton Pain outlined some recent website updates, and asked whether the Seniors Travel Insurance and Travel Accommodation for Seniors pages should be maintained, and the Pension Controversy page, relating to the Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme, perhaps moved out of public view. Committee members decided to remove the travel related pages, but provide web links to appropriate external sources of travel insurance information.

Item 12.2 Webinar for members

Discussion of hosting a webinar for members was held over for a later meeting.

Item 14 Other Business

Barry Grear flagged that the Superannuation Federation had not met since 2019. Issues canvassed by the Committee included the significance of the Federation as an early signaller of possible or impending superannuation changes affecting SA pension scheme members, and a mechanism for consultation with government. It was noted that with the great majority of scheme members now retired, and no longer looking to their unions for support, there may be an increasing role for the Association in the consultation process. The Committee noted that Lindsay Oxlad would check the current status of the Superannuation Federation for discussion at a later Committee meeting.

Next Meeting: 11:00 – 12:00, 65 Flinders Street (Alan Raftery unable to attend)

Meeting Closed: 12:40 approximately
