

VA BOARD MATTERS – May 2014

The VA Board met at The Centre for Volunteering in Sydney on 23 May, 2014. The VA Board has been meeting, by teleconference monthly. This was the first face-to-face meeting since the October 2013 AGM and Board Meetings.

➤ **New President:**

Sadly Matt Rutter tendered his resignation from the VA President role due to his new job requirements and commitments to his young family. The Board recorded its great admiration and appreciation for Matt's outstanding contribution to volunteering and VA. His involvement and stewardship of VA's transformation was particularly noted. Tim Jackson, Chairman of Volunteering SA & NT, was elected as the new President unanimously by the Board.

➤ **New Board Appointment:**

The VA Board is constitutionally able to appoint up to four (4) independent directors. Lawyer Mr. Amit Jois was formally invited to be appointed. Amit Jois has been providing very useful input and observations on a range of VA issues for several months now, on a voluntary basis, so it was considered appropriate that he be invited to become a Director. Amit joins current independent directors Kevin Thompspon (Australian Sports Commission) who is also VA Deputy President and Andrew Coghlan (Red Cross). VA will be immediately embarking on a process to secure another independent director with excellent financial/accounting expertise.

➤ **Commonwealth Government Funding Support:**

VA is working very closely with State & Territory Peaks to unpack and clarify future Government funding arrangements and opportunities.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has published general details of the new funding arrangements.

VA and the State & Territory Peaks, through the CEO Network, is very focussed on this issue to ensure we can continue to support the invaluable contributions that the volunteering sector makes to civil society.

The new DSS structure appears to be settled and VA enjoys a very positive and constructive relationship with relevant DSS personnel.

Whilst considerable information about the new grants programs is available, it is noted that the release of DSS grant applications on 19 June is a critical time for all within the volunteering sector to fully understand the "detail".

➤ **2016 National Volunteering Conference (6-8 April 2016):**

The venue and dates for the next National Conference were confirmed.

The 2016 National Volunteering Conference will be held in Canberra from 6-8 April, 2016.

Volunteering ACT will be hosting the conference on behalf of VA.

Put this in your diary!

➤ **Significant Projects:**

The VA Board received and noted status reports on the following:

- Review of the National Standards
- Review of the Definition of Volunteering
- 2014 Report: The State of Volunteering in Australia

The VA Board also agreed for the review and development of a “sector” National Volunteering Strategy. A project scope and plan is to be developed through VA’s Planning and Strategies Committee.

➤ **2014 National Volunteer Week:**

VA’s acknowledgement and appreciation for all involved in helping promote the benefits of volunteering and recognising volunteers was recorded.

A review of 2014 NVW is advanced so that planning can commence for 2015 NVW.

➤ **2014 IAVE World Volunteer Conference:**

The VA Board continues to receive and review reports from the VA World Conference Governance Committee and the joint VA/IAVE Conference Executive Management Committee.

With only four (4) months to the Conference, major effort will be on encouraging registrations.

VA is looking forward to the impending visit of senior IAVE executives in June to progress Conference preparations.

VA acknowledged, with appreciation, a grant of \$200,000 from the Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department which includes \$150,000 worth of scholarships for Australian emergency management volunteers. Member organisations of the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum (AEMVF) will be selecting the scholars.

VA’s management and Board continues to closely monitor the Conference financials.

➤ **Operational Matters:**

The VA Board also received and reviewed the reports from Standing Committees, CEO Network and VA Management.

The Board collaborative particularly noted the very positive, working relationships between VA and the State & Territory Peaks.

The VA Board, along with the CEO Network, particularly noted the need to proactively engage across the sector to build confidence, collaboration and engagement. It was noted that the engagement associated with the previously reported “Significant Projects” i.e., Review of National Standards, Review of Definition of Volunteering, the 2014 State of Volunteering Report and the proposed development of a “Sector” owned National Volunteering Strategy will provide a great platform for sector engagement.

➤ **Transition to Beyond Bank:**

VA is transferring its banking to Beyond Bank. This transfer is not only an act of good faith to VA's major corporate supporter; it will also provide opportunities for reduced accounting/banking fees and more proactive financial management.