

EFA Board Meeting 2018-10-22

Meeting opened at 8:06pm.

Attendance

Present: Lyndsey, Richard, Peter, Liam, Justin

Apologies: Alex, Stuart, Lachlan, Shaun

Acceptance of previous meeting's minutes

Moved: Richard. Seconded: Liam. Abstained: Peter, Justin

Passed on the voices.

Declaration of Interests

No new potential conflicts of interest were declared.

New Members

New memberships were approved.

AGM Update

The board is actively looking for a diverse set of people to nominate for election to the board at this year's AGM to broaden our skillset and outlook.

Lyndsey is compiling the annual report and asked the board to send through a list of their activities for the year, such as external events and meetings attended on EFA's behalf, media appearances, etc.

Action: All board members to provide a list of their respective activities by the next board meeting.

Justin is working on an audit committee introduction to the financials and audit.

Action: Justin to follow up with Shaun on the progress of the financial report and audit.

The board resolved to provide the reports to members as soon as they are available, and at least one week prior to the AGM.

Correspondence Regarding Published Minutes

The board received correspondence from ex-executive officer Jon Lawrence regarding board minutes that had been accepted and published.

The board noted his comments.

The board discussed the competing need for transparency with individual privacy of employees. The board noted that as executive officer of the organisation, Mr Lawrence had a reduced expectation of privacy regarding his employment compared with more junior staff. This is in line with common practice and public expectations regarding good governance. The board noted that Mr Lawrence's remuneration was readily discoverable in past financial reports made public by EFA.

The board resolved to clarify the language describing the payment of outstanding superannuation owed to Mr Lawrence to better reflect the nature of the discussion by changing the phrase "is being paid" to "will be paid as required by law". Otherwise the minutes are an accurate reflection of the board's discussion and will be republished unchanged.

Moved: Justin. Seconded: Lyndsey. Passed on the voices.

ATO Notice Regarding Superannuation

EFA has received correspondence from the ATO regarding compulsory superannuation payments. This has been passed to the accountants who are in discussion with the ATO on our behalf.

Encryption Key

Liam has been unable to find a suitable time to meet with Nic Suzor regarding recovery of an encryption key and will endeavour to meet with him before the next board meeting.

Action: Liam to meet with Nic Suzor and attempt recovery of the encryption key.

Website

The board discussed malicious activity detected by our friends and colleagues at the Australian Privacy Foundation and discussed the risk to our own website. Our use of multi-factor authentication was deemed sufficient to mitigate the risk posed by the type of attack detected and that no further action was necessary at this stage.

Non-critical updates and patches to the website have been paused until after the board nomination period has closed, to ensure the site remains available for those considering nominating.

Action: Lyndsey to prioritise the Fastmail sponsorship page, to be published prior to the AGM.

Financial Report

Shaun was unable to attend the meeting and so the financial report will be circulated after the board meeting and discussion held asynchronously.

Australian Digital Alliance

The government has announced its intention to pass increased copyright related legislation. The board notes that copyright is an issue that EFA has historically been quite vocal about.

The board intends to continue its partnership with like-minded organisations in its response to this issue.

Action: Lyndsey will circulate correspondence regarding new copyright legislation intentions of the government to members and other interested parties.

Meeting Time

The board noted that the beginning of daylight saving time had caused the regular meeting time to become challenging for multiple board members and that alternative days/times should be investigated.

Action: Lyndsey to send around a Doodle poll or similar to select a new day/time for board meetings.

AGM Physical Location

Given the board's intention to host the AGM at a physical location in Melbourne, as well as online via Zoom, the board discussed the need to be physically present.

The board resolved to approve funding for Lyndsey to chair the AGM in-person in Melbourne. Moved: Justin. Seconded: Peter. Passed on the voices.

Angus and Team's Recent Efforts

The board acknowledges Angus Murray's sterling efforts in recent weeks, in particular his excellent contribution to the Assistance and Access consultation in Canberra. The board further acknowledges the efforts of the broader group that Mr Murray has been working with on this and other related issues. The board thanks Mr Murray and his colleagues.

EFA will be reimbursing Mr Murray for expenses incurred in attending Canberra for the Assistance and Access consultation.

Meeting closed at 9:27pm.