

Date and Time: Nov 16, 2024 3:00 PM GMT+11 AEDT (VIC)

Location: Zoom (not recorded)

In attendance

Voting Members:

- John Pane
- Paul Ruberry
- Erica Mealy
- Ross Floate
- Kiki Fong-Lim
- Amy Patterson
- Andrew Rofley

Observers:

- Alexar Pendashteh
- Bianca Gay
- Steve
- Dirk
- Lyndsey Jackson

Meeting open with acknowledgement of Country

On becoming quorate, the meeting was declared open at 3.10pm AEDT by Chair John Pane. The chair welcomed all attendees, asked that they identify themselves in the chat and note their status as member or observer, and clarified that observers do not have voting rights in this meeting.

The Chair made an acknowledgement of Country and invited meeting attendees to make acknowledgements in the meeting chat.

Chair's Report

John Pane presented his report for the year, the slides for which are included as appendices to this document. John gave thanks to existing 2024 Board Members for their dedicated work over the year, noting the work done by Kiki, Fahad, Amy, Erica, and Paul. The Chair also thanked the board members who had departed during the year for the work.

The year had three areas of focus — governance and operational uplift, raising our profile with the community as well as government and industry, and ongoing planning. Our legal, financial, and operation risk are areas that need improvement and that have been marked as amber on the presentation. Financial management has been marked as green, thanks largely to the work done by the Treasurer.

We have experienced significant issues this year with our IT infrastructure — particularly with our WordPress and Civi instances and we are remediating these with a targeted order of work from Agileware at affordable cost.

We have focused in 2024 on membership-facing activities as outlined in the attachment, with the goal of raising profile and membership. We have also been spending significant effort on building and maintaining relationships with a number of groups. Mentioned among these were Digital Rights Watch, APNC, Choice, ACCAN, University of Sydney, Queensland University of Technology, and ANU Tech Policy Design Centre.

Membership continues, over a 5 year period, to show a gradual decline, and charts showing this pattern over the past three years are included in the attachment. We have some challenges with the veracity of our membership data, and we believe this will be addressed in the previously-mentioned work being undertaken by Agileware.

Media mentions have improved in 2024, more than doubling the prior period, which was down on 2022. We have had 26 mentions to date. These have included ABC News, Sky News, 3RRR, 3CR, ABC Radio, Radio National, The Guardian, The Australian, Innovation Aus, CyberDaily, and Information Age. This improvement has been the result of deliberate outreach and relationship building.

In 2024, we attained our registration with the ACNC, which simplifies much of our ongoing reporting and provides significant privacy benefits for board members who may not wish to have their detailed personal information be made to the public for privacy reasons. The Chair thanked the Treasurer for his efforts in delivering this project.

The Privacy Act reform has seen some wins, particularly with stronger enforcement powers, higher penalties, and progress on introducing a statutory tort for serious privacy invasions. However, there are concerns about the children’s privacy code and significant impacts from the changes to automated decision-making.

Looking to the year ahead, EFA wants to streamline its internal processes, clarify roles and responsibilities, and better engage with members. Plans include mobilising volunteers, improving systems, and appointing a membership officer to support these efforts. Revenue generation is also a priority, with a focus on securing sponsorships, grants, and building EFA’s profile.

Confirmation of the minutes of the previous Meeting

The Chair moved that the meeting accept the minutes so the AGM held on 28 October 2023 be accepted as true and the correct record of that meeting.

Seconded: Ross Floate

| | |
|-------|---------|
| John | Yes |
| Paul | Yes |
| Erica | Abstain |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Kiki | Yes |
| Amy | Yes |
| Ross | Yes |
| Dirk | Yes |
| Andrew Roffley | Abstain |
| Lyndsey Jackson | Abstain |
| Bianca Gay (obs) | |
| Andrew Scott (Prox John) | |
| Steve (non voting) | |
| Alexar Pendashteh obs | |

Presentation of the audited Financial Statements

The audit and financial statements for the year ending 30 June were presented, with a clean audit report from Shankar Gokul of Arabon Audit Assurance. While the year ended with a small loss of \$6,000 (income of \$6,000 primarily from memberships and donations, against expenses of \$12,000), our financial position remains strong.

The Treasurer moved that the audited financials be adopted as a true and accurate representation of our finances.

Seconded: Amy Patterson

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| John | Yes |
| Paul | Yes |
| Erica | Yes |
| Kiki | Yes |
| Amy | Yes |
| Ross | Yes |
| Dirk | Yes |
| Andrew Rofley | Abstain |
| Lyndsey Jackson | Yes |
| Bianca Gay (obs) | |
| Andrew Scott (Prox John) | |
| Steve (non voting) | |
| Alexar Pendashteh obs | |

Arabon Audit Assurance. Audit and Assurance have agreed to act for us again for the coming year.

The Treasurer moved that they be appointed again for the financial year ending June 30 2025.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| John | Yes |
| Paul | Yes |
| Erica | Yes |
| Kiki | Yes |
| Amy | Yes |
| Ross | Yes |
| Dirk | Yes |
| Andrew Roffey | Yes |
| Lyndsey Jackson | Yes |
| Bianca Gay (obs) | |
| Andrew Scott (Prox John) | |
| Steve (non voting) | |
| Alexar Pendashteh obs | |

Election of Board Members

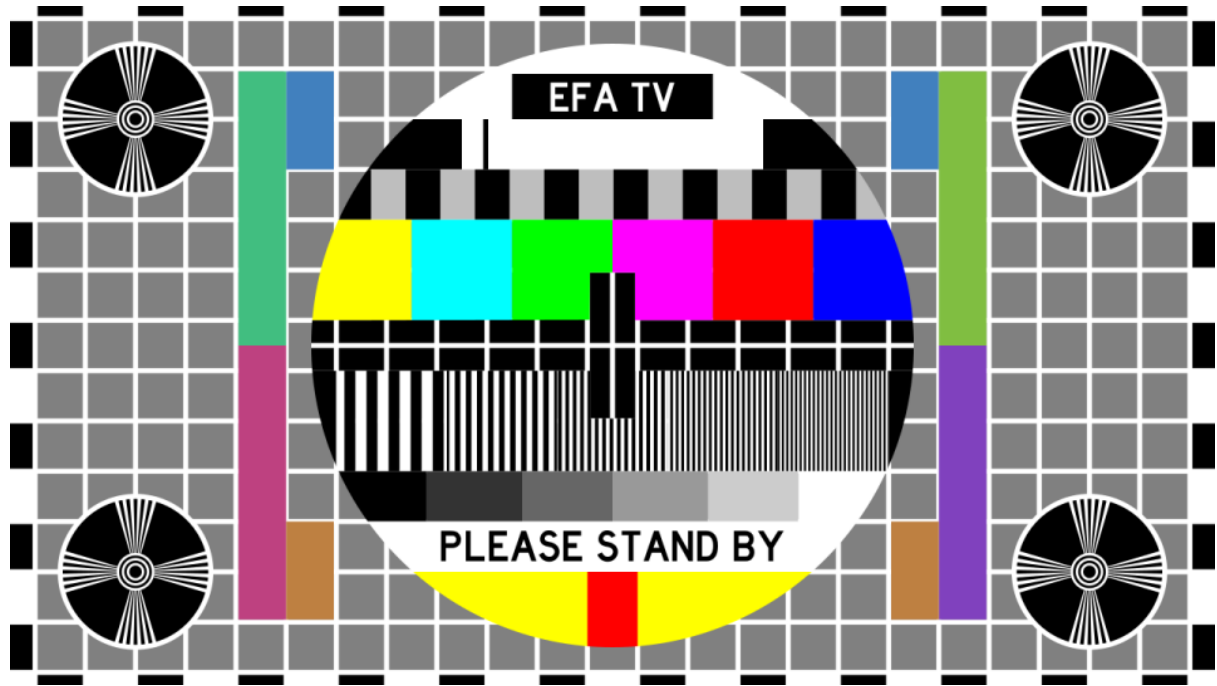
We have four nominees re-sitting on the board and six director positions open on the board currently. Pursuant to rule 10.7 the Chair called that we accept the nominees as new board members. Andrew Roffey, Jarrod Loidl, Bianca Gay, Andrew Scott are declared duly elected.

Note of thanks to retiring board members

The Chair gave thanks for the dedication and work of departing board members, Erica Mealy, Amy Patterson, and Fahad Ali.

Meeting closed

The meeting was declared closed by the Chair at 4.35pm AEDT



EFA 2024 AGM Housekeeping



Identify Yourself



Voting on Motions



EFA Year in Review 2024






**Electronic
Frontiers**
AUSTRALIA

Thank you Board members!

- John Pane - Chair
- Kiki Fong Lim - Vice Chair
- *Fahad Ali - Secretary
- Paul Ruberry - Treasurer
- Amy Patterson
- Erica Mealy
- Ross Floate
- *Craig Lawson
- *Jean Louis Dinco

How did we do?

Strategic Plan

1. **Governance & Operational Uplift** 
2. **Raising EFA's profile in the community/industry/
government** 
3. **Re-planning** 

Strategic Plan

1. Governance & Operational Uplift:

- a. Improve Resourcing & work allocation
- b. Risk management
- c. Financial Management
- d. Systems improvements



Strategic Plan

2. Raising EFA's profile in the community/industry/ government

- a. Membership / Community Engagement and Participation
- b. Be active/build on existing collaborations








3. Replanning

- a. Completion of Strategic Planning and Decision Guide
- b. EFA's longer term Strategic Directions
- c. 2024/2025 Annual Plan



Success Markers

1. Growing a broad-based membership. 
2. Increasing awareness of digital rights. 
3. Increasing protections for digital rights enshrined in law. 
4. Increasing access to beneficial, rights-preserving technologies. 
5. Increased media mention and advocacy opportunities. 

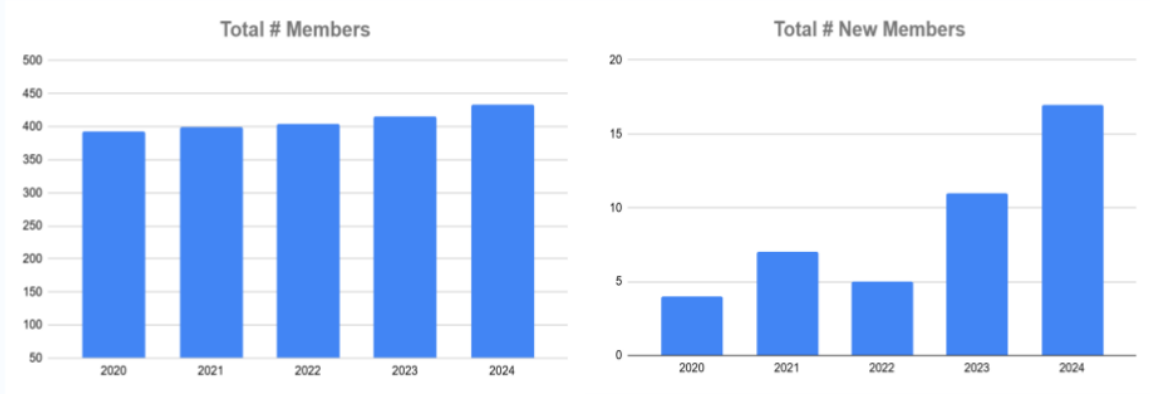
Collaboration

Partnerships and Community

- Digital Rights Watch
- Australian Internet Governance community - including Internet Australia, AuDA, (APNIC, Linux Australia)
- Choice
- ACCAN
- University of Sunshine Coast
- University of Sydney
- Qld University of Technology
- ANU Tech Policy Design Centre

Membership

Membership



Membership

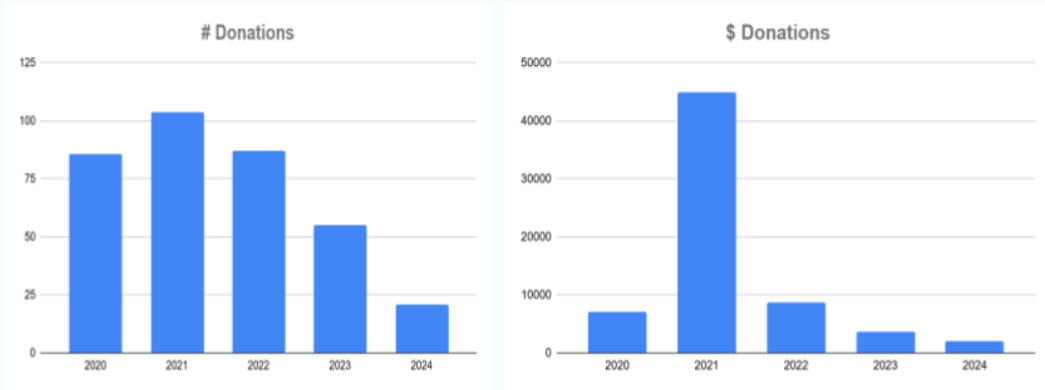


Donations

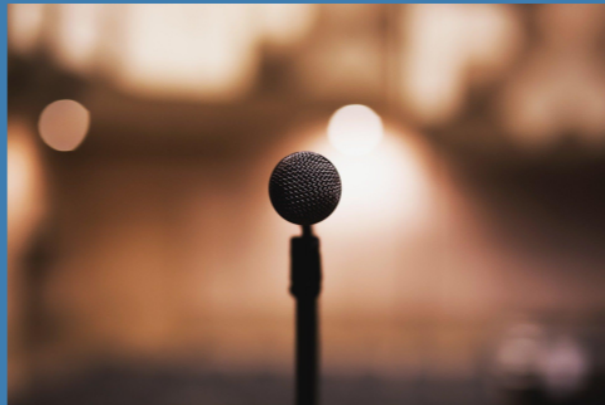
Supporters



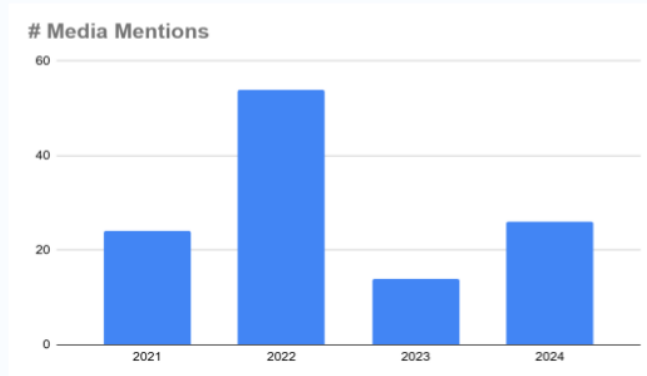
Donations



Media



Media Mentions & Appearances



Media Mentions & Appearances

- 26 mentions/appearances YTD
- TV: ABC News, & News, Sky News, Sky AM Agenda
- Radio: 3RRR, 3CR, ABC Radio National
- Print/Digital: The Guardian, The Australian, Yahoo Finance, Innovation Aus, Crikey, ABC News/Science, Information Age, Weekly Cybers, Cyber Daily

2024 Focus Areas



2024 Focus Areas

- Privacy Act review
- Data security
- Facial surveillance
- AI and AI Safety
- Encryption
- Age verification
- Online Safety



Board Action Highlights x Quarter

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------|---|
| Jan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANU Tech Policy Design Centre Collab • Submission to eSafety Commissioner on DIS and RES Codes | Apr | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney General roundtable - Privacy Act reform cost/benefits analysis |
| Feb | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy Act Review - Civil Society Collab • Friends of Tech Policy - Hypotheticals - Parliament House • EFA briefing to ACCC on data brokers | May | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISR Civil Society Roundtable on AI Guardrails • Privacy Week NZ presentation - VC |
| Mar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy Reform collab with civil society groups • Attorney General Doxxing roundtable • Privacy by Design Awards judging • ACIL Allen Privacy Act Cost /Benefits roundtable | Jun | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAIC/Civil Society Privacy Act review roundtable |

Board Action Highlights x Quarter

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------|--|
| Jul | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAIG Digital ID Roundtable | Oct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy Act reform - civil society coalition collab • Provided evidence to Senate & Constitutional Affairs Committee on Privacy Amendment Bill • Submission - Privacy Amendment Bill |
| Aug | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mozilla/Bumble Coalition Collab/SignOn • Digital Rights in ASPAC - VC • ASPAC IGF - Taipei - VC | Nov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-line Safety Act Industry Code roundtable • auIGF Panel - VC • AGM • New Board formed |
| Sep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eSafety Commissioner Age Assurance Roundtable • DISR civil society roundtable on AI Guardrails • EFA Mastodon presence. • ACNC registration approved | Dec | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Year review/Post Mortem • Review/ranking of outstanding deliverables. |

The Score



Privacy Act Update

- Bill split into 2 tranches
- Not what anyone expected....
- Tranche 1 covering.....
 - Children's Privacy Code
 - Information sharing declarations after data breaches
 - Overseas Data Flows
 - Enforcement
 - Statutory Tort
 - Doxing
 - Automated Decision Making

Privacy Act Update

- Second tranche covering.....
 - Remaining approved/partially approved recommendations from AG's Report on Review of Privacy Act
 - Possible election 04/25
- EFA's submission mainly supported Tranche 1
 - Civil society group coalition participation.
 - Sought undertaking from government to pass 2nd Bill within 6 months of election
 - Gave evidence to Senate Legal & Constitutional Affairs Committee on Tranche 1
 - EFA Election Scorecard Project 24/25

Rejection of Age Verification

- eSafety still wants it
- Likely to come in as a necessary precursor of digital identity
- Government announces age verification trial 09/2024
 - <https://www.innovationaus.com/govt-readies-age-verification-tech-trial-for-social-media-ban/>

Vigilance is required.

Onwards!

Areas of Focus 2025 – Board to Consider

1. Simplification of strategy, reporting and admin - driven by better definition of roles, responsibilities and delegations
2. Focus on Members/ Member Engagement/ Reliable systems and processes to support members
3. Mobilise volunteers and stand up Board functions
4. Revenue raising - sponsorship, grants
5. Continue to build EFA presence and brand

