

**PSA/CPSU NSW RETIRED ASSOCIATES ADVISORY GROUP  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Held on Tuesday 25 October 2022 at PSA House and by Zoom**

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The meeting was chaired by the President of the PSA/CPSU NSW Retired Associates Dave McKeough and commenced at 10.47am following time for photographs by the PSA's Communications Team for the development of promotional materials.

- 1. Acknowledgement of Country** – Stan Beal, Assistant Secretary
- 2. Attendance**

**At PSA House** Robert Asbury, Stan Beal, Janette Beer, Barry Blanchard, Dave McKeough, Wayne O'Mara, Carmel McKeough, Robert Ryan, John Walz, Isabella Ramirra, Angela Denham, Nicola Christie, Paul Turner, Kevin Hogan

**PSA Representative** Anne Kenneally

**By Zoom** Mara Tudorin, Ysbrand Oosten, Phil Mortimer, Susan Jedrejczyk

- 3. Apologies**

Bret Leech, Robert Pike, John Lievore, Therese Delanty, Wayne McMillan, Nicole Jess, Kym Ward

**MOTION:** That the apologies be accepted.

**MOVED:** John Walz                      **SECONDED:** Barry Blanchard

**CARRIED** Unanimously

- 5. New Members**

Angela Denham and Kevin Hogan were welcomed to the meeting.

- 5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 23 August 2022**

**MOVED:** That the minutes be accepted, following deletion of a repetitive paragraph in the section about the guest speaker's presentation on social and affordable housing

**MOVED:** John Walz                      **SECONDED** Barry Blanchard

**CARRIED:** Unanimously

- 6. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

*6.1 Report of Retired Associates working group on rebuilding the NSW public sector and valuing public servants*

Carmel McKeough advised that she and Dave McKeough met with the General Secretary on 20 September 2022.

The General Secretary was pleased to receive the paper which will be used by the PSA to assist in preparing for the upcoming state election.

## 6.2 Letters to Ministers

Carmel McKeough advised that letters were signed by the General Secretary on 28 September and sent to the Minister for Health, Minister for Customer Service, Minister for Communities and the Federal Minister for Housing and Homelessness. Copies of the letters were circulated to members.

Template letters to local members and local councillors have yet to be prepared.

**Action: Carmel McKeough to prepare template letters by the next meeting**

## 6.3 Statistical analysis about membership of the Retired Associates

Kym Ward provided a breakdown of membership of the Retired Associates as of October 2022. The data shows:

- Total membership of 1110
- 790 financial members
- 320 unfinancial members
- 837 members have given email addresses
- 9 members identify as Aboriginal
- Age breakdown is
  - 5 members are 50 and under
  - 48 members aged 51-60
  - 579 members aged 61-70
  - 222 members aged 71 to 75
  - 120 aged 76 to 80
  - 103 aged 81 and over
  - 27 unknown.

We are awaiting final confirmation of the full range of member benefits available to Retired Associates. It was agreed that we need to better communicate the advantages of value-added benefits to retired public servants and their continuing membership of the PSA/CPSU NSW through the Retired Associates.

Nicola Christie advised that she had saved \$300 on a new stove by using Union Shopper which represents her fees for the Retired Associates for the next 7 years. It was further agreed that we needed to have more examples such as this in our promotional materials.

**Actions:**

**Implications of the data to be further discussed at next meeting**

**Members to provide examples of their use of member benefits**

## **7. Reports**

### *7.1 Attendance at Women's Conference 13-14 September*

Carmel McKeough and Nicola Christie attended the Women's Conference as observers. Carmel McKeough gave a short presentation about the Retired Associates at the Conference which was positively received. She gave a Conference report as follows:

- General Secretary advised that the majority of PSA members are female;
- large female membership in schools;
- success of the pay equity case;
- unfair workplace laws;
- women end up with 40% less superannuation than men;
- PSA is advocating for women to be paid superannuation when on parental leave – seeking commitments from State and Federal Governments;
- speakers from Gidget Foundation, Foundation House, Dementia Australia, Climate Activist, Kindness Factory, Gender Diversity Activist, community leader working with migrant and refugee women and presentation about addressing sexual harassment in the workplace;
- video presentation by Jodie Harrison, MP – Shadow Minister for Women, Shadow Minister for Seniors and Shadow Minister for Prevention of Domestic Violence and Assault who spoke about social housing for women escaping domestic violence, coercive control, women's issues and seniors;
- panel discussions – women working in male dominated industries and the barriers they face on the first day and on the second day the panel discussed insecure work;
- 60-65% of school learning support officers (SLSOs) are in insecure work;
- prisons/corrective services – casualisation of workplace;
- cultural institutions and consequences of long-standing use of temporary employees;
- importance of accessing flexible workplace arrangements;
- recognition of Kris Cruden and her legacy to the union movement;
- announcement of the Kris Cruden Scholarship for Mature Women; and
- opening of Jean Arnot Library on second day of the Conference.

### *7.2 Meeting with PSA officials*

Carmel McKeough and Dave McKeough met with Marianne Ledic and Nigel Miles from PSA Communications to discuss revamping promotional materials about the Retired Associates. This meeting took place on 5 October 2022.

## **8. Correspondence**

Correspondence/emails related to confirmation of the PSA delegate to attend the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Annual General Meeting on 26 October 2022.

## 9. Planning Session

### 9.1 What should be our priorities?

Anne Kenneally from the Industrial Specialists Team joined the meeting and facilitated discussion about our priorities for next year.

The immediate priority is the state election on 23 March 2023. Anne referred to the impact of public sector cuts, staffing levels, workload, privatisation, insecure work and the wages cap. The PSA continues to seek the abolition of the wages cap and a return to the IRC as the independent umpire in setting wages.

Anne advised that Parramatta is now the biggest location of PSA members and will be an electorate of interest. Other electorates of particular interest are Penrith, Riverstone, Tweed and Dubbo.

Retired Associates are encouraged to volunteer for leafleting, train stations, pre-polls and polling booths. Dave McKeough, Carmel McKeough and Phil Mortimer indicated they were available for these roles.

Other priorities should be:

- lobbying State and Federal Governments on issues of concern to Retired Associates;
- preparing submissions ahead of State and Federal Budgets;
- seeking changes to the State Environmental Policy on social and affordable housing which developers are not complying with;
- supporting the PSA in its campaign against insecure work in the public sector starting with school learning support officers;
- lobbying for reforms in aged care, retirement villages, retirement incomes and superannuation, including supporting the PSA's campaign for payment of superannuation when on parental leave;
- advocating to eliminate modern slavery and human trafficking noting that it is estimated up to 15,000 people could be enslaved in Australia and up to 50 million people world-wide – consider inviting Steve Baird from the International Justice Mission to be a guest speaker;
- climate change;
- Uluru Statement from the Heart and the upcoming referendum on the Voice to Parliament; and
- developing a better understanding of the roles of the Industrial Relations Commission and Fair Work Commission

There was considerable discussion about two additional priorities – mental health and housing and homelessness.

#### Mental Health

Isabella Ramirra discussed the level of depression and anxiety in the community and the impact of lockdowns particularly on young people. We discussed the benefits of a mental health first aid course and trauma informed training. Isabella suggested we should contact the Black Dog Institute and Dave McKeough recommended that we try to get a speaker for our December meeting.

Anne Keneally referred to the mental health conferences run by the PSA prior to the pandemic. Carmel McKeough recommended that 2 observers from the Retired Associates should be able to attend future mental health conferences.

**Actions:**

**Carmel McKeough to contact the Black Dog Institute and ask if they can provide a guest speaker for our meeting on 6 December 2022**

**The General Secretary to be requested to approve 2 observers from the Retired Associates to attend future PSA Mental Health Conferences**

Housing and Homelessness

In regard to housing and homelessness the following issues were discussed:

- accommodation crisis in NSW and nationally;
- the cost of housing and impact of cost-of-living pressures;
- housing for older women, with women aged 55 and over the fastest growing group of homeless people;
- should the Federal Government assume a greater role in the provision of social and affordable housing; and
- changing policy settings so that people renting privately have more rights.

Carmel McKeough said that this was not just an issue for the Retired Associates but an issue of fundamental importance to the PSA/CPSU NSW and further suggested the establishment of a Housing Reference Group which could involve PSA staff, delegates and members as well as Retired Associates to advocate and lobby for reforms so that we have sustainable housing solutions in NSW.

**MOTION: That members of the Retired Associates support the establishment of a PSA/CPSU NSW Housing and Homelessness Reference Group to provide advice on policy and funding reforms to ensure more social and affordable housing and greater relief for people in private rental accommodation.**

MOVED: Carmel McKeough

SECONDED: Mara Tudorin

CARRIED: Unanimously

*9.2 Roles and duties of Committee Members*

Prior to the meeting a draft charter developed for the Retired Associates in 2020 was circulated. It was agreed this document provided sufficient clarity about the roles and duties of committee members. It was further agreed that while this document largely reflected what we believe should be our charter a few amendments were required in light of today's discussions.

The charter has not been formally ratified so the current executive of the Retired Associates will seek to have the charter formally adopted by Central Council.

**Action: Dave McKeough and Carmel McKeough to update the charter and circulate to members at the next meeting.**

### 9.3 Meeting schedule for 2023

Monday, 13 February	Tuesday, 22 August
Tuesday, 18 April	Tuesday, 24 October
Tuesday, 27 June – AGM	Tuesday, 5 December

Arrangements for the meeting on 13 February 2023 which may be held at a venue in western Sydney will be confirmed as soon as practicable.

## 10 Death of Mel Green

Dave McKeough advised members that long-time PSA employee Mel Green died recently. Mel's funeral is on Friday, 28 October 2022. Members signed a sympathy card which will be given to her family. We acknowledged Mel's dedication to the PSA and professionalism in carrying out her role.

## 11. Motions on notice - Nil

## 12. General Business

### 12.1 Australian Council of Public Sector Retiree Organisations

Mara Tudorin advised that our membership of this group ceased around 2014. It was agreed that there was no need to re-join as the group largely focusses on Commonwealth public sector defined benefit superannuation schemes.

### 12.2 Commonwealth Seniors Health Card

Wayne O'Mara referred to the card and benefits for retirees. Information is available at: <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/who-can-get-commonwealth-seniors-health-card?context=21966>

### 12.3 Coalition for the Protection of Greyhounds (CPG)

Dave McKeough advised he had been contacted by CPG to see if a retired associate from the PSA would be willing to take on a volunteer role. The job description is as follows:

We need someone who has at least five years' experience with questions on notice (QoNs). The job entails: - handling the management of this information, including a spreadsheet to track data received as well as outstanding QoNs), - analysing the data for potential use within CPG, - liaising with relevant senior volunteers when new data arrives and distributing the data.

Further information is on the website <https://greyhoundcoalition.com>

### 12.4 PSA Trivia Night

A PSA Trivia Night will be held on Thursday, 10 November 2022 at the Commercial Hotel, Parramatta.

**Action: Anne Keneally to provide more details about the Trivia Night to Retired Associates**

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Retired Associates will be held on Tuesday, 6 December 2022 at PSA House or via Zoom and commences at 10.30am.

The meeting closed at 12:55pm.

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