

**PSA CPSU NSW RETIRED ASSOCIATES  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Held on Tuesday 22 October 2024 at PSA House and by Zoom**

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The meeting was chaired by Dave McKeough, President of the PSA/CPSU NSW Retired Associates and commenced at 10.37 am.

**1. Acknowledgement of Country – Ysbrand Oosten**

**2. Attendance**

**At PSA House** Dave McKeough, Carmel McKeough, Robert Asbury, Ysbrand Oosten, David Clyant, Paul Turner, Jeanette Beer, Samson Raman.

**PSA Representative** Julie-Anne Bond, Manager Environment, Trade, Industry and Other (ETIO)Team

**Guest** Ash Fowler, Policy Manager, Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association

**By Zoom** Nicola Christie

**3. Apologies**

Mara Tudorin, Robert Pike, Barry Blanchard, John Walz, Bret Leech

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

MOVED: John Walz      SECONDED: Robert Asbury

CARRIED Unanimously

**4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 27 August 2024**

Retired Associates thanked Wayne O'Mara for taking the minutes of the August meeting.

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

MOVED: Robert Asbury      SECONDED: Ysbrand Oosten

CARRIED: Unanimously

**5. Business Arising**

**5.1 Motion re SSS Superannuation**

Awaiting further advice from the Executive. We will follow up and seek a definitive response by the next meeting

**Action:** Carmel McKeough to email Nicole Jess

**5.2 Mental Health**

Carmel has arranged for Ruth Davis – Mental Health Nurse (Recently retired) to be our December guest speaker. Ruth will discuss looking after mental health and well-being over the Christmas/New Year period.

### 5.3 Promotional materials

Continues to be a work in progress

**Action: Dave and Carmel to follow up with the Communications team.**

### 5.4 Red Tape Articles

The latest Red Tape included a warm tribute to Stan Beal.

Carmel McKeough submitted an article about our AGM and Hugh McKay's presentation to the PSA. Unfortunately this appears not to have made it to publication and is now somewhat out of date.

### 5.5 Reaching out to un-financial members

Continues to be a work in progress. At 70 years of age a lot of members resign because they are no longer eligible for the Provident Fund but they don't realise what benefits that they still can gain from being a member e.g. Union Shopper, free will service and cheap insurances, etc.

It was agreed that we will request the PSA to give an update about value added benefits, how retired members can access them and how we can more effectively promote their availability.

**Action: Carmel McKeough to contact Kim Ward**

## 6. Reports

### 6.1 PSA CPSU NSW Executive Update – Julie-Ann Bond, Manager, ETIO Team, representing the General Secretary

Julie-Ann's briefing addressed the following:

- Salary matters and extensive negotiations which have taken place to achieve an outcome.
- Cost of living pressures are biting – impacting union members and across the community.
- Women's Conference – a great event for the PSA with high calibre speakers – well attended and well received.
- DC meetings taking place at PSA House – key role of delegates.
- Promoting diversity.
- Elections - new delegates.
- Importance of getting out of PSA House, being seen at work sites, engaging with existing members and recruiting new members.
- Underfunding of public housing – hard work of Housing DC members to highlight issues facing the community.
- No changes to GSE Act as yet.

Julie-Ann recommended that we ask Nathan Bradshaw to attend the December meeting and provide a briefing about what is happening at Icare. We agreed that this was a good idea and will follow up.

Retired Associates thanked Julie-Ann for her briefing.

**Action: Carmel McKeough to ask Nathan Bradshaw to attend the December meeting and give briefing about the current status of Icare and other issues in his team.**

## 6.2 Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association (CPSA)

Carmel McKeough attends executive meetings and will be attending the CPSA Annual Conference. Further discussion deferred until Ash Fowler's presentation.

## 6.3 Quality Aged Care Action Group (QACAG) Meeting

Dave McKeough attended a meeting on 17 October 2024. Issues discussed included the new Aged Care Act and cessation of funding for a mobile x-ray service on the central coast.

Ash Fowler was the guest speaker and gave an update about current CPSA priorities.

Dave further advised that he had attended a forum organised by Kylea Tink MP on Death and Dying. Dave circulated resources provided at the meeting.

## 7. Correspondence

Nil.

## 8. Motions on Notice

Nil.

## 9. General Business

### 9.1 Zoom/Microsoft Teams

For the second meeting in a row an invalid zoom link was sent out with the meeting bulletin. The PSA has subsequently advised that there is a strong preference that we use Microsoft Teams for future meetings.

We discussed this further and advised the PSA that clear, plain English, step by step instructions will need to be issued with a future bulletin.

**Action: Carmel McKeough to follow up with Dylan Smith**

## 10. Guest Speaker – Ash Fowler, Policy Manager, CPSA

Ash Fowler joined the meeting and addressed the following issues:

- Funding for CPSA which is one of the aging peak organisations along with Council on the Aging and Older Women's Network.
- CPSA was established in 1931 and has a key role in policy and advocacy.
- Jodie Harrison MP is the Minister for Seniors.
- 25% of people in NSW are aged 60 and over.
- Key policy issues include transport, health, social inclusion, impact of digitisation, aged care and cost of living.

- With the move to doing as much as possible on-line and closure of banks and other services especially in rural and remote areas some members feel forgotten about.
- There is anxiety about cash and cheques disappearing and how hard it is to actually talk to a person when requiring a service.
- Concern about the on-line world – not having the skills, not knowing how to navigate and worry about scams.
- CPSA is looking for opportunities to speak to the government about these concerns though that is not helped when consultations are conducted and the only way to provide feedback is on-line.
- NSW Government Digital Inclusion Strategy – not one mention of older people.
- Reference was made to the Regional Bank Inquiry – government needs to be proactive and ensure essential services including banks are available to communities.
- Transport – next generation of Opal system being worked on.
- Current Opal contract has been extended for 2 years.
- Importance of making sure that the new contract is user friendly for older people and expands concessions to those in receipt of Jobseeker.
- Need much better community transport options especially in regional areas.
- Current approach to older driving testing is an issue of concern – loss of independence.
- Elder Financial Abuse – under reported.
- Currently the only measure is people who contact the Aging and Disability Commissioner.
- Need to get information out into the community about elder abuse.
- Regulation of powers of attorney – CPSA would like to see a national register as there is no consistency across jurisdictions - Attorneys-General say this is unlikely to happen
- Issues in Trustee and Guardian
- Aged Care Act – Act is focussed on funding and rights-based framework is not strong enough.
- Concern about emphasis on user pays systems.
- 50,000 people on waiting lists for home care packages – user pays based.
- Government has decided not to impose an aged care levy.
- Workforce issues in aged care.
- Housing for older people – affordable options in decline.
- CPSA's funding arrangements – unlikely to increase

There was a lot of discussion following Ash's presentation. We agreed that the Retired Associates and CPSA shared many common interests and concerns.

Dave and Carmel advised Ash that we would be happy to support CPSA campaigns on issues of mutual concern such as aged care, health, housing, transport and elder abuse.

Ash also advised that joining the CPSA costs \$15 for an individual. This enables members to have The Voice mailed to them. The Voice is also available in PDF format on the CPSA website – <https://cpsa.org.au>

We thanked Ash for her presentation.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Retired Associates will be held on Tuesday, 3 December 2024 at PSA House or via Teams, commencing at 10.30am.

A light Christmas lunch will be provided afterwards. The meeting closed at 12.50pm