

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

The meeting was chaired by Dave McKeough, President of the PSA/CPSU NSW Retired Associates and commenced at 10.32 am.

1. Acknowledgement of Country – Ysbrand Oosten

2. Attendance

At PSA House Dave McKeough, Carmel McKeough, Robert Asbury, Ysbrand Oosten, David Clyant, Paul Turner, Robert Pike, Barry Blanchard, Isabella Ramirra, Robert Ryan

PSA Representative Troy Wright, Assistant General Secretary

Guest Ruth Davis

By Teams Nicola Christie, Patricia Nethery

3. Apologies

Mara Tudorin, Jeanette Beer, Bret Leech

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

MOVED: Ysbrand Oosten **SECONDED:** Robert Asbury

CARRIED Unanimously

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 22 October 2024

Noted that there was an incorrect date and John Walz was not present at the meeting.

MOTION: That the minutes be accepted with the above amendments

MOVED: Ysbrand Oosten **SECONDED:** Robert Asbury

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.

Action: Carmel McKeough to follow up with Nicole Jess

5.2 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

Nicola Christie suggested that we should request having a standing item in Red Tape. This was unanimously supported.

Action: Carmel McKeough to send email to General Secretary requesting a standing item in Red Tape for Retired Associates

5.5 Reaching out to un-financial members

Continues to be a work in progress.

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. It was further agreed that we should ask Kim Ward to give an update and include this information in a future Red Tape article.

Action: Carmel McKeough to contact Kim Ward and invite her to attend the first meeting of 2025

6. Reports

6.1 PSA CPSU NSW Executive Update – Troy Wright, Assistant General Secretary

Troy's briefing addressed the following:

- Recent pay deal for public servants – three-year agreement at 4%, 3%, 3% with a buffer for inflation and cost of living increases.
- Pay deals for other public sector workers discussed e.g. teachers and police, including the details of the police agreement which need more contextual information over and above what has been reported in the media.
- PSA membership has grown – 41,000 members
- There has also been a salary increase and settlement with groups in the public sector who had unjust and outdated conditions – special constables, sheriffs and grooms (working for NSW Police).
- Working on agreements in fisheries and for child protection workers.
- Significant problems with recruitment and retention of child protection workers – current grading is 3-7 which is too low a starting point and needs to change.
- Out of Home Care is in crisis – privatisation a total failure.
- Junee Correctional Centre comes under the public sector on 1 April 2025
- Slowly rebuilding capacity in the public sector.
- Current issues around WFH and delegate's rights.
- Government has set up a group to look at possible changes to the Government Sector Employment Act.

Troy thanked Retired Associates for the continuing commitment to the PSA. We wished each other a happy Christmas.

We noted the outstanding action from the October meeting in relation to asking Nathan Bradshaw to give an update about Icare and other current issues in his team.

Action: Carmel McKeough to ask Nathan Bradshaw to attend the February 2025 meeting and give a briefing about Icare and other current issues.

6.2 Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association (CPSA)

Carmel McKeough gave a report of the CPSA Annual General Meeting held on 29-30 October 2024. The conference was opened by the Hon. Jodie Harrison, Minister for Seniors (by video). Guest speakers included Melanie Lennon from the Seniors Rights Service, Andy Schmulow who discussed bank closures and Nathan Aulsebrook who discussed dental care for older people.

Policy motions discussed and voted on included:

- Loss of banking services, cheques and ability to use cash;
- Digital inclusion;
- Community transport;
- Access to transport in rural, regional and outer urban areas;
- Older driver testing;
- Energy, including solar and cost of utility bills;
- Housing – lack of supply, affordability and rental protections;
- Health care;
- Palliative care;
- Income security;
- Aged care; and
- Disability support for people over 65.

CPSA held its final executive meeting for the year on 27 November 2024. Current deliberations with DCJ were discussed.

6.3 Quality Aged Care Action Group (QACAG) Meeting

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

There was also discussion about the circumstances surrounding the death of Clare Nowland.

6.4 Sydney Retired Unionists Group (SRUG)

Barry Blanchard advised that SRUG met on 4 November 2011 at the headquarters of the Teachers Federation. Maxine Sharkey, General Secretary of the Federation was the guest speaker.

Councillor Sylvie Ellsmore (Greens) from the City of Sydney will be the guest speaker on 10 February 2025 and will be discussing housing.

SRUG is looking to have a place to practice singing as there is always a union song at the end of meetings.

The NSW Seniors Festival will be held from 3-16 March 2025. There will be a Seniors Expo on 12-13 March at Darling Harbour.

7. Correspondence

Nil.

8. Motions on Notice

Nil.

9. General Business

9.1 Vale Janet Good

Barry Blanchard referred to the death of former PSA General Secretary Janet Good and her contribution to the union movement over many years.

9.2 Seniors Health Card

There was discussion about eligibility criteria for accessing the seniors health card.

9.2 Guest speakers for 2025

Carmel asked Retired Associates for guest speaker suggestions for next year. Speakers from the Men's Shed, Service NSW, Services Australia and APHEDA were recommended.

Action: Carmel McKeough to follow up guest speaker suggestions

9.4 Meeting schedule for 2025

Carmel circulated the following meeting schedule for 2025:

Tuesday, 25 February
Tuesday, 22 April
Tuesday, 24 June – Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, 26 August
Tuesday, 21 October
Tuesday, 2 December.

There was unanimous agreement about these dates.

Action: Carmel McKeough to advise the secretariat of these dates and include in the next bulletin issued to Retired Associates

10. Guest Speaker – Ruth Davis

Ruth Davis joined the meeting. Ruth recently retired after a long career in nursing and midwifery. Ruth spent time working in child and maternal care in Africa and also has qualifications and many years of experience in mental health and aged care. Ruth is an accredited mental health first aid trainer and continues to run regular programs.

Ruth gave a presentation about looking after our mental health and well-being over the Christmas period. A copy of her presentation is attached with the minutes – refer TAB A.

We thanked Ruth for her presentation.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Retired Associates will be held on Tuesday, 25 February 2024 at PSA House or via Teams, commencing at 10.30am.

The meeting closed at 12.45pm. Retired Associates and our guest speaker subsequently enjoyed a light Christmas lunch at PSA House.