



**Minutes of the 43rd Annual General Meeting of
Parkinson's NSW 29 November 2024
Via Virtual Meeting**

In Attendance

Rachel Tanny
Mirelle Brockett
Margaret Scott
Mark Stewart
David Veness
Becky Silk

Mary Kay Walker
John Back
Stuart Snell
Steve Schiemer
Cheryl Veness
Phillip Maundrell (Observer)

Jayne Walker-Smith
Andrew Whitton
Andy Esteban
Martin Ostrowski
Hon John Watkins AM

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, Rachel Tanny welcomed those in attendance at the meeting at 10.02am. The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the Land.

2 Apologies

The Chair tabled Apologies received:

Member: Malcolm Irving and Auditor: Emily Fawbert, StewartBown.

3 Review of actions from previous Annual General Meeting

There were no outstanding actions from this meeting.

4 Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting

The minutes from the 2023 Annual General Meeting were taken as read and accepted.

Moved by Stuart Snell
Carried

Seconded by Steve Schiemer

5 Chair's Report

The Chair noted that this financial year presented many challenges and is very optimistic about the future of Parkinson's NSW and the people we support.

The Chair acknowledged the new, well qualified and experienced people in key leadership roles of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer who continue to work with the Board to overcome past challenges and move the organisation forward in ways which will benefit our community.

These challenges faced in the 2023-2024 fiscal year by commercial and not for profit sectors put substantial pressure on household spending. Parkinson's NSW worked hard to strike a balance between meeting increasing demand for our services and supports while striving like other organisations to contain costs.

After some disciplined decision making by the Board together with the execution by the Leadership Team and staff, we reduced our operating expenses by 9.6 percent year-to-year. In terms of fundraising, we experienced a 25 percent increase in contributions by trusts and corporations, and a small decline of 1 percent in charitable donations. However, there was a significant impact on our revenue from a drop of 53 percent in charitable grants and a reduction of 78 percent in NSW Government grants.

Through tight management of expenses PNSW managed to achieve a 5.2 percent growth in total Parkinson's NSW Limited revenue to \$2,607,594. Despite cost reduction and the growth in revenue, the drop in grant revenues noted resulted in our organisation declaring a loss of \$802,787 for the 2023-2024 period.

The Chair tabled the Consolidated Group result, this includes Parkinson's NSW and the Parkinson's NSW Trust, was a loss of \$1,206,816.

Given these circumstances, the Board has decided to invest more in 2024-2025 to support increased government and private sector advocacy, and donor acquisition for fundraising operations which remain crucial to underwrite the delivery of services and supports for our NSW Parkinson's community. These actions are all part of the five-year plan which the Board has implemented and continue to closely monitor.

The Chair thanked the Parkinson's NSW management team and all the staff, in what was a challenging year and their support of Mary Kay Walker.

The Chair expressed her appreciation for the dedication of the volunteer Board Members to the best practice governance, and monitoring of key performance indicators of the organisation.

6 CEO Report

CEO, Mary Kay Walker presented her report to the meeting.

Our financial performance in fiscal year 2023-2024 again faced the economic headwinds of a high cost of living and the related elevated costs of doing business for all Australian enterprises. Although PNSW managed to reduce operating expenses by more than \$420,000, which at 9.6 percent was a greater reduction than the previous year, Parkinson's NSW declared a loss of \$802,787 for the fiscal year.

This loss was mitigated by the receipt of \$2,400,713 in bequests and donations which reflected PNSW increased focus on and investment in donor acquisition over the last year. The consolidated group of Parkinson's NSW and the Parkinson's Trust recorded a loss of \$1,206,816.

Mary Kay pointed out that Parkinson's NSW was strongly impacted by a substantial drop in NSW Ministry of Health grants which were supporting out work for the Parkinson's NSW community. PNSW have increased investments funds in advocacy campaigns and have engaged external advocacy experts and specialist grant writers on short-term, project-based contracts.

Mary Kay noted that the funding challenges did not impact on the quality and rate of delivery of our services for the year, noting the team performed strongly across all areas including InfoLine, nursing, counselling, Support Groups, and education:

- The InfoLine calls exceeded monthly rates of the three prior fiscal years, with more than 3,400 phone enquiries over the year handled by a team of 2.5 full time equivalent staff members
- Our four community- based Parkinson's Specialist Nurses conducted more than 240 in-patient and clinic consultations and travelled 17,900 kilometres to support their patients
- Counselling demand remained steady with 1.5 full-time equivalent staff conducting 230 sessions in-person and via telephone and teleconferencing
- Support Group participation rates grew across the state reaching more than 2,500 people living with Parkinson's and care partners in person

- The Education and Quality Assurance team leverage two online learning modules to double the number of Allied Health professionals upskilled with Parkinson's patient-specific knowledge

Mary Kay thanked our supporters, partners, and donors for their contributions to the ongoing fundraising efforts, Board Directors and Staff for their support.

7 Questions from Membership to Directors

The Chair handed the meeting to Mary Kay Walker, Company Secretary who chaired the session.

Company Secretary thanked those members who had sent questions in before the meeting and then read the questions and responses. Mary Kay Walker then opened the meeting to further questions.

Mary Kay noted that all questions and answers will be posted on the PNSW website in due course after the AGM.

Mary Kay handed the meeting back to Chair.

8 Reappointment of Auditors

The Chair advised the meeting the Board of Parkinson's NSW have recommended the reappointment of StewartBrown as Auditors for the 2024/2025 Financial Year.

The Chair resolved that StewartBrown be appointed as Auditors and asked Members to cast their vote.

On completion it was confirmed that StewartBrown be reappointed as Auditors for the 2024/2025 Financial Year.

9 Meeting Close

The Chair thanked members for their participation in the meeting and the meeting closed at 10.45am.

Signed:

Rachel Tanny
President

Mary Kay Walker
Company Secretary