

MINUTES
Australian BPD Foundation AGM 2023/24

Tuesday 19th November 2024

Online via Zoom

Chair: Rita Brown

Minutes: Karen Bailey

Attendees:

Board Members: Rita Brown, A/Prof Sathya Rao, Karen Bailey, Desmond Yew, Estelle Malseed, Natasha Swingler, Michael Hazelton, Aaron Fornarino,

Members: Norman Kurta, Lorraine Powell, Sophie Lucas, , Judy Burke, Kathy Madson.

Guests: Mary O'Hagan, Jacqueline DeAraujo,

Ordinary Business:

1. Welcome & Acknowledgement
 - Acknowledgement of Country and Lived Experience
 - Introduction of Board Members
2. Apologies: Jenny Walpole, Bronte Schofield
 - Proxies received from: Liz Hodgman: Dom Mandizy: Jillian Broadbear; Bob Malseed; Judy Burke; Ruth Deane; Sam Scott; Jo Beatson; Sri Vadasseri
3. Declaration of Quorum:
Quorum met
4. Confirmation of minutes of previous AGM 21/11/2023
Moved by Rita Brown to confirm previous minutes, seconded by Sathya Rao and Mike Hazelton. Passed unanimously
5. Chairperson's Report – highlights of 2023/24
 - **Appointment of a CEO** – We welcome Norman Kurta as our new CEO. He brings a wealth of experience in business and strategy. Norman has current board involvement and is a past carer of someone living with BPD. His goals include setting the Board up for future growth, connecting with politicians, building the donor list, and growing the Boards' footprint. Initially he is

*Support Promote Advocate
for Borderline Personality Disorder*

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focused on strategic direction, seeking feedback from all domains and understanding what the community wants and needs.

- **Fundraising** –Our major fundraising activity this year was our Bollywood for BPD event with international speaker Dr Lois Choi Kain. Guests were invited to wear Indian themed clothes and enjoyed a delectable Indian feast, vibrant performances from Indian dancers, and an engaging auction.
- **Donations** – We also thank fundraisers Shannon (record breaking Kettlebell swings) and Chels & Deb (daily exercise in October), who together raised over \$3000 for the Foundation.
- **BPD Awareness Week** – This year’s theme was ‘Living Life Well: Recovery and BPD – message of hope. Four new postcards developed.
- **Advocacy** – The National Consensus Statement continues to play a central role in our advocacy. Sathya and Rita met with the assistant federal minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention - the Hon Emma McBride MP’s advisors
- **Annual Report** –The Annual Report is available online:
<https://bpdfoundation.org.au/images/AGM/2024/Annual%20Report%202023-2024-final-web.pdf>

Confirmation of chairperson’s Report – moved by Mike Hazelton, seconded by Jacqueline De Araujo. Passed unanimously

6. Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2024:

- Reported by Desmond Yew
- Financially we are still in a strong position due to the funding received for our National Training Strategy and the considerable volunteer efforts keeping our costs down. We are cash positive and can pay our debts as and when they fall due.
- Net loss of \$37,505 due largely to administration and BPD Awareness Week consultancy fees.
- The Financial Report is available online:
<https://bpdfoundation.org.au/images/AGM/2024/2024%20Financial%20Report%20-%20Australian%20BPD%20Foundation%20Ltd-web.pdf>

No questions from attendees

Confirmation of Financial Report – moved by Rita Brown that the annual financial reports for the year to June 2024 be approved by the members. Seconded by Lorraine Powell. Passed unanimously.

7. Re-appointment of the Auditor:

Rita Brown moved that we nominate Price Gibson Chartered Accountants as our auditor for the 2023-2024 financial year. Seconded by Desmond Yew. Passed unanimously

Sathya Rao conducted the election process

Election of Directors:

- *Rita Brown, Karen Bailey & Estelle Malseed* are available for re-election and nominations for their reelection were received.

Since we have 3 vacancies and 3 nominations Sathya declared Rita, Karen and Estelle to be duly elected and congratulated them on their election. Sathya also invited attendees to consider applying for a role on the board. Contact rbrown@bpdfoundation.org.au for more details.

8. Other Business:

- None

9. Close of meeting:

Rita thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7:00pm (AEDT)

AGM Guest Speaker – Mary O’Hagan

Rita Brown introduced Mary O’Hagan, international leader in the recovery movement in mental health services. Mary is currently the Executive Director Lived Experience in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Division of the Victorian Dept of Health, and is tasked with implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Victorian Mental Health System.

Mary shared her lived experience with mental health services in New Zealand, spending 8–9 years hospitalised. She acknowledged her family environment as a buffer aiding her recovery.

Initially, treatments followed a medical model, focusing on symptom reduction, short-term risk management, and pessimistic recovery views. The system often removes rights, creates dependency, and reduces agency.

She now believes outcomes improve with the right support. A library book introduced her to peer support, sparking her advocacy journey. She founded a Psychiatric Survivors group, influencing policy and models over time.

In 2024 in Victoria, the lived experience movement is globally unique. Despite slowed reforms from the Royal Commission into Victorian Mental Health due to funding, sector gains are significant. The lived experience branch of the Victorian Health Dept, Mental Health and Wellbeing Division and the Victorian Consumer and Carer peak bodies (VMIAC and Tandem) have received large budgets, and lived experience workforce number have doubled.

Mary praised the board's work, congratulated us on appointing a CEO, and offered support to the Foundation. Her advocacy tips included understanding the political system, building relationships, and identifying drivers and motivators. She noted the Department of Health operates in a tight space, requiring strategic advocacy to identify and leverage areas for support.

Available for viewing <https://youtu.be/q4XsqrijegTw>