**ASIEQ General Members Meeting**

**Date:** Wednesday 17 November 2021

**Time:** 9.30am – 10.25am

**Location:** Via Zoom

**Attendees:** Appendix 1

**Apologies:** Bill Nevin (Glencore), Helen Creagh (EML)

**Acknowledgement to Country**

Cara Williams began by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we met. The meeting was held via Zoom and she was in Brisbane which is a contested space, so she paid respects to both the Jagera people and the Turrbul people and their Elders, past, present and emerging. Louisa asked everyone to take a minute to think about the traditional owners of the land on which they stand.

**Welcome**

Cara welcomed members to the November 2021 ASIEQ meeting. Cara apologised that we were not meeting face to face but due to the current Covid cases, ASIEQ decided it was safer to have the meeting virtually.

**Review of the previous Minutes**

The minutes from the previous General Meeting on 18 August 2021 were circulated after that meeting.

*Clodagh McCowen moved a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true and correct record. Seconded by Louisa Hackenberg. None Opposed. Motion Passed.*

President report

**Correspondence**

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| **Correspondence Log** |
| **Date**  | **Incoming** | **Outgoing** | **Method** | **Sender** | **Subject** |
| 30/07/2021 | ü |  | Email | Bill Nevin | Statutory Claims Officer Training and Cert Course |
| 13/07/2021 | ü |  | Email | Westpac | Query re QOTE. Response sent 21 July |
| 2/07/2021 | ü |  | Email | WorkCover Qld  | Surgical Guidelines update |
| 28/06/2021 |   | ü | Email | Louisa Hackeberg | Request for information on guidance notes for 572a. Response rcd on 6 July |
| 24/06/2021 | ü |  | Email | Suzi D'Andrea | Assoc member application |
| 14/06/2021 | ü |  | Email | WCRS | Information on Self Insurance Levy |
| 14/06/2021 | ü |  | Email | Jobfit Systems | Assoc member application |
| 7/06/2021 |  | ü | Email | Sofitel | Signed contract for 2021 conference  |
| 6/06/2021 | ü |  | Email | Bill Nevin | CC'd on email to WCRS re request for Rehab policy template |
| 4/06/2021 | ü |  | Email | Justin Crowley | Notification of MAV ruling in Vic |
| 2/06/2021 | ü |  | Email | Sofitel | Contract for the 2022 Conference  |
| 1/06/2021 | ü |  | Email | Bill Nevin | Suggestions to WCRS re data specifications |
| 31/05/2021 |  | ü | Email | Louisa Hackeberg | Email to WCRS re doc links to WCQ info. Action item from WCRS mtg |
| 26/05/2021 | ü |  | Email | WCRS, Kelly Amos | Information re MAT portal re single medical certificates |
| 24/05/2021 | ü |  | Email | Bill Nevin | CC'd on email to Craig Allen re self insurance levy rate |
| 24/05/2021 | ü |  | Email | WCRS, Rob Sinnamon | Updated Audit process guide and spreadsheet tool received |
| 21/05/2021 | ü |  | Email | Bill Nevin | cc'd on email to WCRS re Self Insurance levy rates |
| 19/05/2021 | ü |  | Email | Bill Nevin | CC'd on email to WCRS re Audit Tool document versions |

Louisa noted the correspondence above. No questions were raised. Louisa commented that the correspondence has been listed in the agenda and minutes. If members wished to read any of this correspondence in full, they can contact the Secretariat for a copy.

**Treasurers Report**

Victoria Barham gave the Treasurer’s report.

* Bank Balance as of 31 July 2021 - $144 049
* Outgoings for July were $3 942 for Secretariat fees
* A refund has been received for the PIEF sponsorship as the conference moved to online and ASIEQ were unable to have the coffee cart sponsorship paid for
* ASIEQ membership invoices will be issued in the first week of September.

Victoria also noted that there will be no increase to ASIEQ membership fees for the coming year.

**Presidents Update**

Clodagh advised that we had our AGM on 27 October 2021 and our new committee was formed. The Committee is:

Clodagh welcomed the new committee.

The dates have now been sent for 2022 and these are available on our website.

Clodagh thanked BarryNillson

15 October we held our first Zoom Drop in session for members. This is the first session that was very well received. We have now set another one for 2 December. You must be a member to attend and you can RSVP . Talking about Complex Claims and IME wait times. These can go through to the Secretariat. It’s a confidential opportunity to talk.

9 December Christmas function.

Covid vaccinations are becoming mandated for workers if they are attending IME and other appointments. A number of medico legal organisations have published their Covid policies. Shifts have been extended by 15 minutes to allow for rapid antigen testing which will have implications on NWE Calculations going forward.

What

Guidance on weekly benefits where there is likely to be a mandate to be vaccinated but they have chosen not to or cannot be vaccinated which is impacting on suitable duties – where does this leave the employer? There were new recent

…

Clodagh went through the WCRS minutes from the meeting on xxxx

**2022 ASIEQ Conference**

Work continues on the ASIEQ Conference for 2022.  The Pivoting and Progressing Conference will be held at the Brisbane Sofitel on 9 and 10 March 2022.  The Conference is a multidisciplinary event exploring the unique and ground breaking ways organisations have pivoted to not just survive, but progress in these strange times.  We have seen amazing leaps which in normal times may have taken years to implement, being made in a matter of weeks.  How have these changes affected the way in which workers’ compensation is managed and what will we continue to improve in the future now that we are on this new path?

Registrations are open and you can secure early bird tickets now and sponsorship opportunities are also available.  We are pleased to announce that we already have three members who have bought a table sponsorship and these are Glencore, Teys and JBS.  I would like to thank these members for their support and encourage others to get on board.  We are also pleased that Jobfit Systems International have joined as a Bronze Sponsor and will have a trade booth at the conference.  Lime Medico legal are also going to have a booth.  Again, thanks to these organisations for their support. Members are encourage to visit the website for more information on sponsorship.

We are working hard to pull an exciting program together which will be released in the not too distant future.  The conference committee and ASIEQ Executive have made the decision that should these dates be effected by Covid, we will be postponing the event as we feel it’s important to give members and opportunity to meet face to face rather than trying to convert the conference to something online.  So when you book, you can have some assurance that it will remain as a face to face event.

If you’d like more information, visit the [ASIEQ website](https://www.asieq.com.au/events/conference2022/) or look for the link in your email communications.  If you have suggestions of topics or speakers you’d like us to include, feel free to email those to our Secretariat.

**Sub Committee Reports**

**National Certificate of Capacity**

Michelle Ware gave an update advising the focus is on the principles on the role of the GP in supporting work participation. The June workshop saw 37 people come together from various systems, sectors and services to have a national conversation and debate on creating a system that genuinely works towards work participation. Comcare will consider the feedback received and develop a series of initiatives from the workshop(s) and a planned approach to implementation which Comcare will share back with the group.

HWCA National Capacity Certificate working group update, next meeting has been moved to Sept due to delays in finalising the contract with the preferred provider for the Proof of Concept pilot.

**RIG**

Michelle Ware gave the RIG report. Medicinal Marijuana (MM) Continuing to see requests for funding (MM) across CTP and NIISQ. Reduction in opioids in the main reason to consider funding. NIISQ has some good results in this space.

MAIC have signed an agreement with the Emergency Medicine Foundation providing funds to help research into best emergency care for trauma patients in regional, rural and remote Qld. The research will also identify key barriers to optimal emergency care for patients and how to overcome those identified barriers. This partnership will help build research capacity for trauma and emergency healthcare clinicians in regional, rural and remote Qld.

**Digital Innovation Project update**

Online rehabilitation/reimbursement requests and online treatment plans will ‘go live’ from the 9th of June 2021. Online CTP medical certificates will also ‘go live’ form the 9th of June 2021. This will mean that the CTP medical certificate will appear in GP software from this date.
MAIC will continue to support new online forms and welcomes feedback.

**Claims dealing with First Nations People**

Medilaw can assist with IMEs in an Indigenous rural community, Medilaw has an indigenous consultant, Barbara O'Neill contact details (see appendix 2). NIISQ work with First Peoples Disability Network (FPDN) and have found them to be a useful resource.

**Upcoming conferences/Webinars**

University of Queensland injury recovery centre - RECOVER Conference 7th October 2021. Learn about RECOVER's latest research in road traffic injury rehabilitation, pain management and digital technologies. Registrations opening soon. Contact recover@uq.edu.au for more information

[Trauma 2021](https://www.traumaconference.com.au/) 10-12 September 2021. Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

Webinar – Rehabilitation and persistent pain management 24th August 1:45pm to 3:15pm

**Private Hospital Table of Costs**

Cara Williams advised there isn’t too much to update at present. WorkCover Queensland proposed a private hospital table of costs to be implemented this year. Late last year a draft was circulated and open for comment which was returned and some of the suggestions were taken on board however they may not be included in the first version. A second round of comments was open recently but as this has only just closed, no updates have been forthcoming. It’s expected to be published on 1 November for implementation from 1 December 2021. This will be valid for all Workcover and Self Insurers. There will be some caps on items such as prosthetic handling fees and prices will be the same for rural hospitals as well as metro hospitals which hopefully will give more consistency and transparency.

**General Business**

**Annual General Meeting**

Louisa advised that the Annual General Meeting was scheduled for Friday 29 October however this date is now the rescheduled Ekka public holiday. As such, ASIEQ will be bringing the meeting forward to Wednesday 27 October at 3pm. A decision will be made closer to the date as to whether the format will be face to face or virtual.

Louisa encouraged members to consider joining the ASIEQ Executive Committee. Nominations will be circulated in early October. She encouraged anyone interested to chat with an existing committee member or the Secretariat.

**UQ Legal**

Kate Thurbon from the University of Queensland updated the members on a right to information application that she brought to obtain documents relating to the “Pilot Program” in relation to OIR auditing self-insurers with the Draft Audit Framework.  Initially OIR said that the request was too broad on the basis that they were after documents on the audit framework itself (which they were not after).  They narrowed the request down to just the documents relating to the development of the “Pilot Program” or any document that referred to a “Pilot Program”.  No documents were disclosed – meaning they don’t exist, confirming that a pilot program does not exist.

UQ also successfully challenged the Review Unit for not affording UQ procedural fairness with new medical evidence.  The Review Unit was invited to reconsider its decision, was served with a draft Supreme Court Judicial Review application and again invited to reconsider its decision. It again refused to change its decision.  UQ was successful in the application and received $17k in legal costs from OIR.  Kate is currently tracking 1 person’s decisions in the Review Unit and if they are successful on an appeal that they have currently in the Commission, they intend having a meeting with OIR on the basis that this person doesn’t have the skill or experience to be making decisions.  Another member noted that a decision from a GP was taken over a specialist. Decisions are taking quite a while to be made. To commercially challenge a case in the QRIC, takes several years and is quite costly.

Another issue is that the Review Unit have used a generic email address for the Self Insurer and it can easily be missed. Under the audit tool, there is only two days to release the decision to the worker. Discussion was held over whether the day the information received is day 0 or day 1 however under the Act interpretation act, it should be day 0.

It was further discussed that where the decision is upheld, it seems unnecessary to advise the worker adverse information when they are being informed by the Regulator as receiving multiple letters could cause unintended stress. It goes against the Section 545 – 1b and 2b. Teys is currently challenging this information as part of their mid term audit and awaiting information from the Regulator.

ASIEQ has been informed that on the 12 month anniversary of the Audit, further consultation will be held and these are issues that should be raised. This will also be raised at the next ASIEQ meeting with the WCRS. Members were reminded to submit any issues they would like raised and this can be done anonymously.

**Professional Development Event**

Louisa encouraged all members to attend the Recovre’s Pain Program: Resolve, by Amelio Health session next Wednesday 25 August at 9.30am. Registrations can be made via the Secretariat.

**Next Meeting**

The next General meeting and forum will be held on Wednesday 17 November and a decision will be made closer to the time as to whether it will be face to face, virtual or both. The AGM dates had been tabled above.

**Appendix 1 – Meeting Attendees**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Michelle | Ware | Allianz |
| Trinity | McKenzie | Arnotts Biscuits Limited |
| Danielle  | Bolton | ASIEQ |
| Stephanie | Naidoo | Aurizon |
| Cara | Williams | Bolton Clarke |
| Katerina | Glassock | Brisbane City Council |
| David | Gomulka | Brisbane City Council |
| Kylie | Howard | Brisbane City Council |
| Andrew | Murrell | Brisbane City Council |
| Kelly | Tucker | Brisbane City Council |
| Jamie-Lee | Crawford | Coles Group |
| Clodagh | McCowen | Coles Group |
| Tania | Perina | CSR Limited |
| Malou | Tavita | CSR Limited |
| Colette | Nancarrow | GFG Alliance (Liberty OneSteel) |
| Rosemary | Neal | GFG Alliance (Liberty OneSteel) |
| Natasha | Iselin | Glencore |
| Karen | Wilson | Inghams Enterprises Pty Ltd |
| Dean | Campbell | Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT) |
| Megan | White | JBS |
| Susan | Lloyd | JBS Australia |
| Rachael | Lindsay | Local Government Association Queensland |
| Paul | Bush | Qantas Airways Limited |
| Jodie | Singarella | Qantas Airways Limited |
| Carlie | Faint | Queensland Rail Limited |
| Suzanne | Forsyth | Queensland Rail Limited |
| Louisa | Hackenberg | Queensland Rail Limited |
| Michael | Byrne | Recovery Partners |
| Karen | McLoughlin | Star |
| Sarah | Reynolds | Teys Australia Meat Group Pty Ltd |
| Trent | Rickard | Teys Australia Meat Group Pty Ltd |
| Victoria | Barham | The Star Entertainment Group |
| Justin | Crowley | Toll Group |
| Louise | Grant | Townsville City Council |
| Christine | Judge | Townsville City Council |
| Lesley | Dame | Tricare  |
| Jodie | Longden | Tricare  |
| Deb | Allen | University of Queensland |
| Kate | Thurbon | University of Queensland |
| Suzanne | D'Andrea | Vocational Redirection |
| Tim | Elvery | Work Rehab |