

## ASIEQ General Members Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 16 February 2022
<b>Time:</b>	9.30am – 10.25am
<b>Location:</b>	Via Zoom
<b>Attendees:</b>	Appendix 1
<b>Apologies:</b>	Clodagh McCowen (Coles), Denise Fishlock (Woolworths), Rosemary Neal (GFG Alliance)

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### 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. Cara 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 February 2022 ASIEQ meeting. Cara noted that Clodagh McCowen, the President would not be joining us today as she is unwell.

### Review of the previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous General Meeting on 17 November 2021 were circulated after that meeting.

*Trent Rickard moved a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting as a true and correct record. Seconded by Cara Williams. None Opposed. Motion Passed.*

## Correspondence

Correspondence Log					
Date	Incoming	Outgoing	Method	Sender	Subject
27/01/2022		✓	Email	Danielle Bolton	Email to Rachel Hawkins advising Matt Cross is Nat Capacity for work rep
19/01/2022		✓	Email	Danielle Bolton	Resent Nov email to RIG asking for new contacts to be amended
19/01/2022	✓		Email	Krystal Grace, Treasury	Invite for RIG meeting on 28 Feb
6/01/2022		✓	Email	Danielle Bolton	Email to OIR with contract and confirmation of sponsorship arrangements
22/12/2021	✓		Email	Lisa Sellars, OIR	Contract for 2022 Conference Sponsorship
9/12/2022		✓	Email	Danielle Bolton	Email to Fiona Martin with comments on the Rehabilitation and Return to Work Guidelines
18/11/2022	✓		Email	Fiona Martin, OIR	Request for comment on the Rehabilitation and Return to Work Guidelines
5/11/2021		✓	Email	Danielle Bolton	Email to RIG with new contact people

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 January 2022 - \$217 210
- Outgoings for January were \$13 001
- BAS for Oct – Dec 2021 has been lodged
- All costs for the 2022 Conference are covered and are within budget.

Victoria noted that the conference is currently making a small surplus.

## Presidents Update

Cara Williams, Secretary gave the President's update in Clodagh McCowen's absence.

Cara noted that it has been a very busy time for ASIEQ particularly with the Conference. There has also been increased requests to meet with WCRS about various policies as part of their stakeholder engagement.

Since our last forum, we've had our Christmas networking function which was a great night to get together and meet face to face. It was a welcomed opportunity given all the zoom meetings.

We have continued with our Members Drop In session with our most recent one being held last week. It is well attended and appears to be working well. Cara invited members to send any feedback through to the Secretariat on these sessions. Members are welcome to bring any topics to these events for discussion.

The Committee met with WCRS last week for our quarterly catch up. This was originally scheduled for January but was delayed with staff on leave and the delayed start to the school year. The draft minutes were received yesterday and have been circulated to attendees.

Cara discussed the WCRS Minutes. She advised that Craig Allen is retiring and Tony James is now the Acting Deputy Director-General. With this change, Janene Hillhouse will be giving the WCRS presentation at the conference.

There was an update from the Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities (HWCA) Working group who are going through the national Self Insurer's OHS Audit tool. This is still in an early phase and the draft won't be available until later this year. Once it's finalised, there will be a transition period. They plan to have more alignment with the ISO Standards 45001 and a greater focus on non-physical injuries - more psycho social risk assessment, relying on some of the standards that have been developed such as the codes of practice already out in NSW and WA released 3 yesterday. They are also looking at the security of IT systems as part of the audit process.

There will be a meeting next month to discuss the National Capacity Certificate and Matt Cross from the ASIEQ Committee will be attending to hear how this is progressing. Queensland is not part of the pilot program.

The Committee tried to get an update on a number of outstanding guidance materials however no commitment has been received. Work is continuing on 572A and WHS obligations as feedback was sought prior to Christmas on employers attending medical appointments with employees. Quite a lot of feedback was received and they are reworking this document. It appears there will be further opportunity to comment before it is finalised.

WCRS have given a commitment to share key findings from the KMPG data review with ASIEQ.

ASIEQ raised that obtaining a Psychiatric IME within a reasonable period had been difficult and the flow on effects with decision times and duration. It seems to be widespread throughout the scheme. Telehealth is considered an option but there is still over a six month wait. The Tribunal has reviewed it's position and have now said if you get a comprehensive treatment report from the treating specialist, the MAT will accept this providing it meets the criteria. Tribunal Services have advised that members can reach out for guidance on this issue.

ASIEQ also asked for Guidance on s220 vocational assistance for common law claims looking for clarity around how this is being considered in an Audit perspective. If the person has declined vocational assistance, is this going to result in a penalty within the audit process? ASIEQ has asked for assistance in getting a reasonable approach to this issue. Having a notice of claim doesn't preclude a person from participating or being referred for Voc assistance and WCRS noted that Self Insurers should just work through each sub section of the legislation. The concern seems to be around interpretation. ASIEQ will continue to follow this up.

ASIEQ again raised the Rehabilitation and Return to Work Guidelines. Phase 2 is now complete and feedback will be compiled over the next 5 weeks. We have again raised issues about when the plan needs to be done and if it's the same time as acceptance. The definitions in NSW was highlighted which may help for small claims. It will also be helpful for those managing claims to have consistency across regions.

A question from the drop in session was also raised relating to withholding the 10% advanced payment for Medicare on PI payments over \$5000. Some members noted that they are only holding this without a notice of charge for the common law cases but not in stat. ASIEQ asked if WCRS had a position on this. They advised it had come up occasionally but they referred back to Services Australia but confirmed they had not had any complaints relating to this matter. Trent Rickard advised attendees of the [document from Services Australia relating to when you must notify medicare](#). He highlighted there is still some ambiguity around the term "compensation".

ASIEQ noted feedback relating to discussions with Workcover Queensland around how they are changing their systems to raise a debt with the CTP insurers for recovery of costs for medical reports. It was noted that it is not practical for Self Insurers to raise a debt for each insurer given the number of claims in this space.

## Sub Committee Reports

### 2022 ASIEQ Conference

Cara gave an update on the upcoming ASIEQ 2022 Conference to be held on 9 and 10 March at the Brisbane Sofitel. The Conference sub committee made the decision to proceed with the Conference and will be implementing additional safety measures such as providing Rapid Antigen Tests for each attendee to do at home prior to attending. There will be a cap on our numbers to ensure we can socially distance within the room which means tickets are limited.

The program has been released and registrations are starting to flow in. There is an excellent range of topics such as Common Law, Medicolegal, Safety and Rehab. This will be highlighted with some exciting keynote presentations.

We now have McInnes Wilson Lawyers joining us as a Gold Sponsor. Silver sponsors are WCRS (Old Govt) and WorkCover Queensland. Bronze sponsors are Axis, Finity, Jobfit Systems and Occphys. Tables have been purchased by Coles, EML, Hall & Willcox, ipar, JBS, LGAQ, Old Rail, Teys, WCRS and WorkCover Qld. Trade booths will held by McInnes Wilson, Axis, JobFit Systems, Lime Medicolegal and Occphys.

Cara thanked the Conference Sub Committee – Clodagh McCowan (Coles), Patina Pitkin (Wilmar), Tania Perina (CSR) for all the hard work going into this event. Cara is also a member of this sub committee. She also thanked Danielle Bolton for her extensive work in pulling together the logistics behind the scenes.

## General Business

There was no general business raised.

Cara encouraged members to forward suggestions for future topics for the Forums.

## Next Meeting

The next General meeting and forum will be held on Wednesday 18 May 2022. We hope to return to face to face meetings and forums with a dial in option. The meeting will be held at the offices of MinterEllison, Level 22, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane.



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Clodagh McCowen  
President  
18 May 2022

## Appendix 1 – Meeting Attendees

John	Hastie	ACES
Trinity	McKenzie	Arnotts Biscuits Limited
Stephanie	Naidoo	Aurizon
Laura	Stewart	Back2Work Solutions
Matthew	Cross	Big W
Cara	Williams	Bolton Clarke
Andrew	Murrell	Brisbane City Council
David	Gomulka	Brisbane City Council
Katerina	Glassock	Brisbane City Council
Kelly	Tucker	Brisbane City Council
Kylie	Howard	Brisbane City Council
Veronica	O'Neill	Brisbane City Council
Jamie-Lee	Crawford	Coles Group
Malou	Tavita	CSR Limited
Tania	Perina	CSR Limited
Louise	Cook	Gold Coast City Council
Dean	Campbell	Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT)
Tony	Cacciola	Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT)
Megan	White	JBS Australia
Zac	Lowth	Jobfit Systems International
		Local Government Association
		Queensland
Rachael	Lindsay	Queensland
Paul	Bush	Qantas Airways Limited
Carlie	Faint	Queensland Rail Limited
Louisa	Hackenberg	Queensland Rail Limited
Wayne	Cooke	Queensland Rail Limited
Michael	Byrne	Recovery Partners
Sarah	Reynolds	Teys Australia Meat Group Pty Ltd
Trent	Rickard	Teys Australia Meat Group Pty Ltd
Victoria	Barham	The Star Entertainment Group
Christine	Judge	Townsville City Council
Jodie	Longden	Tricare
Louise	Martin	Wesfarmers Group WorkCover
Patina	Pitkin	Wilmar Sugar P/L
Kristine	Scott	Woolworths