



The Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT)
Queensland Branch

Annual General Meeting 2020 (10 PD)
Followed by PD Session: “Interpreters and Translators at the Frontline Series: Ethics with a Difference presented by Patricia Avila (10 PD)

Saturday 12 September 2020 – 9am - 10am
Online via ZOOM, with PD via a second ZOOM meeting.

Minutes

The 2020 Annual General Meeting was attended by 45 AUSIT members and other guests.

1. At 09.00 the AGM was declared open and locked via Zoom at 9.17

2. Dylan Hartmann (Secretary) welcomed all attendees and went over the etiquette for online meetings.

3. Sam Berner (Chair) presented the Chair’s annual report for 2019-2020:

Strategic Highlights of 2019-2020

Sam commented that it had been an interesting year as our strategic planning meeting was held pre-covid, and that we have had to move away from face-to-face PD and plan and deliver more events online.

- **Cooperation** - We continued our cooperation with the stakeholders that we usually cooperate with, both within and outside Queensland; NAATI, UQ, TAFE SA and RMIT, as well as other AUSIT Branches.
- **Representation** – We continued representing translators and interpreters, including on the NAATI RAC *Regional Advisory Committee*, as well as other organisations interested in working with interpreters. Special thanks to Patricia Avila who is not on the current AUSIT committee but works in our interests representing us all as a practitioner in many places. Also thanks to regional organisations such as TRAMS and the Catholic church organisation Mercy, in Toowoomba, who have provided funds to help people in those communities to become interpreters.
- **Growth** – Amazing, considering that covid has affected many within the industry in terms of income and work. In August 2019 we had 160 members and have grown to 209 members in June 2020, constituting 34% of all credentialled QLD practitioners. This is second only to WA with 37% in terms of proportions of T&I professionals within the state who have become

members. We are therefore doing quite well and QLD practitioners see value in joining AUSIT.

- **Finances** – We have also grown a little on this front. Last year we managed to make about \$5000 in profit. This financial year, despite covid, and the fact that we only had 2 face to face events before lockdown, we still managed to make \$4198.15 dollars, mainly on one online webinar which brought in about \$3000. We also had good numbers for tax matters and the team building events, although since those events were from June those figures will be included in the next tax year. This is a good income considering we are a small branch.
- **Empowerment** - AUSIT and NAATI came together to sponsor 20 scholarships to speakers of languages in demand in QLD to be trained via the NAATI Certification Training Online Course with TAFE SA and RMIT and to later sit for the NAATI Certificate Exam. Out of those 20 nominees, 11 successfully passed the language test, 11 and are now studying to become interpreters. These scholarships were limited to people from communities without enough interpreters and so are considered languages in demand.
- **Professional Development** - We also empower practicing T&Is with timely professional development. Considering the impacts of covid, we've held training on tax matters, diversification, we had Nancy Guevara come and talk about a totally new market niche, and Anna Jenman and Sam Berner spoke about building teams and project management. We will continue providing as many CPD opportunities as possible, online, as we don't know when we will be able to put on face to face events again.

Operating Highlights of 2019-2020

- Our strategic plan was to meet once a month and we managed to meet 11 times out of 12 months, sometimes face to face, sometimes on Zoom. Each meeting lasts 2 hours. We address the changing situation that we find ourselves in, and plan for the future. All the QLD webinars we planned were perceived to be of such good value that we were invited to be offer them nationally, but they've been fully sourced, organised and managed by QLD.
- Our membership has grown by 22%, the aim at the strategic meeting was 20% so we have beaten that target. Our aim this year will be to grow by another 20%.

Looking Ahead

We don't really know what lies ahead, 2020 has been a crazy year so far! We are hoping that 2021 will be better, but the Queensland committee will continue to support, motivate, empower and represent all our members by engaging with stakeholders, pressing for better visibility and training for all our members.

Having said that, we are always looking for new people to join in this work. National Council has suggested that no one should stay in a committee executive role for more than 3 years. We invite members to contribute and we offer training for people thinking of joining the committee at the next AGM.

Sam then thanked the members and thanked the committee.

Special thanks to those who are stepping down, Dylan Hartmann, thanks for being the secretary, best of luck for his new venture, also to Roza Sarkamari, for being our treasurer 3 years in a row, also moving to a different career. Heidi, the quiet achiever, we are sad to see her go. Also to Raquel, who will act today as our returning officer, and will then return to her studies, and Sousan who is leaving today. Rona, in particular, has not stopped being a great motivator and role model for all of us, thank you for staying on.

Sam then invited questions regarding the report

Sam pointed out that the the original report is available on the website under Members, Documents.

Questions were typed into the chat box:

- Question from Farhiya Ahmed Mohamud – I wanted to become an AUSIT Mentee, when will the programme start? Answered by Guan: It has already started for this term, (started 1st September). We're still processing the applications and once we confirm with the mentors, the mentees will receive a list of mentors so that they can choose who they want to pair with. If she has already lodged her application, she should have already received a confirmation letter of receipt. If she hasn't then she'll have to wait until term 1, 2021, starting March 2021.

4. Sam Berner then asked the sitting committee to step down.

Serving committee members removed their videos from the screen.

5. Financial member Raquel Holzmann acted as the Returning Officer.

The names of nominated committee members were then read out and the AGM was asked if there were any objections for each new member. They were voted in by zoom poll, yes/no depending on whether members were happy with the nominee.

6. Voting: The following list of new members was elected: 44 participants voting.

QLD	
Sam Berner	Chair and Branch Delegate
Anna Jenman	Secretary
Natasha Ziada	Treasurer
Leisa Maia	PD Coordinator
Mariam Elliot	Member
Haifaa El Kadi	Member
Renata Oliveira Munro	Member
Elisabeth Kissel	Member
Andrea Dallape	Member
Sophia Jamjuree	Member
Rona Zhang	Member
Zhen Guan	Member
Sorgul Maho	Member

7. Introductions: Members all introduced themselves one by one apart from Leisa, apologies.

8. General Q&A

Patricia Avila asked: How has being on the committee benefited you professionally?

Renata Oliveira answered: She found a second family in joining the committee as secretary, feels more in tune with the profession, has been able to participate in a lot of PD, learning from experienced people, meeting people from so many other cultures and languages, has increased her desire to continue being a translator, especially given the difficulties in the industry. Being able to present workshops, and be alongside those with a lot of presenting experience. There is a wealth of knowledge they can get from being part of the committee

Anna – Echoed Renata’s points, great to get to know people, especially interpreters (speaking as a translator), as otherwise wouldn’t have much contact with them. Great to have so many PD opportunities.

Miriam – I have been here so long because I enjoy it and want to continue, it is a great, energetic team, I look forward to the meetings every 6 weeks. The committee feels like a family, there is a closeness.

Sam gave out the email, qld@ausit.org, for anybody who is thinking about joining the committee next year, you can come to the meetings as an observer.

Sam – Joined in 2003 and has been on various committees ever since. The ability to give back, is a great motivator to stay. Every time I think about stepping down it would feel like losing a limb! It rejuvenates you, working with people who have different perceptions of the industry, at different stages of their careers, continuously learning. AUSIT has changed massively over the last 17 years. We have now grown to 1400 members, on social media, with our own website, running courses. We used to do a PD once a year in Qld, now we do one every one to two months.

9. New committee passed the meeting minutes from the last AGM.

This was moved by Rona, seconded by Elisabeth. Poll was taken and the minutes were accepted by the membership.

10. The AGM was closed at 10am.