

	Minutes
Date and Time	Wednesday, 16 October 2024, 1800pm – 1915pm
Venue	King & Wood Mallesons, Level 12, Constitution Place, 1 Constitution Ave, Canberra ACT 2601 and by Microsoft Teams

1	Opening and Welcome
1.1	Welcome attendees
	As the MC for the event, the Director, ACT and Migrant Support Program National Operations (Jessi Claudianos) welcomed attendees to the ACT Annual General Meeting.
1.2	Acknowledgement of Country
	The MC acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which everyone was situated, the Ngunnawal people and paid respects to all First Nations people present.
1.3	MC acknowledgements and introductions
	The MC welcomed and introduced the following special guests:
	DAB Chair – Alex Lia
	Australian Red Cross President – Charles Burkitt
	Australian Red Cross Chief Executive Officer – Andrew Colvin
	<ul> <li>Australian Red Cross Executive Team – Llyod Doddridge; Tammy Lamperd and Jai O'Toole (virtual attendance)</li> </ul>
1.4	Formerly open the ACT AGM 2024
	The DAB Chair formally opened the ACT AGM 2024 and made an acknowledgment of country to the Ngunnawal people and paid respects to all First Nations people present.
1.5	Apologies and Quorum
	The DAB Chair:
	acknowledged apologies were received from Ben Chesler, ACT Youth Advisory Committee
	<ul> <li>representative and Brittany Shepheard ACT Youth Advisory Committee representative.</li> <li>confirmed a quorum of Governance Members for the meeting was present.</li> </ul>
2	
2	Minutes
2.1	Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting ACT
	The minutes of the 2023 ACT Division Annual General Meeting were approved as a true and correct record with no amendments. This was seconded by Eveyln Kuang.
3	Elections
3.1	Announcement of Divisional Advisory Board Election Results
	The Returning Officer, Director ACT, Jessi Claudianos advised that she received nominations from Alex Lia, Eveline Kuang, Noel Thilakan, Brittany Shepheard, Elaine Dargan, Ben Chesler and David Dumbrell and It was noted that those nominations to the ACT DAB did not surpass positions vacant.



The returning officer noted that all nominations have been elected to the ACT Divisional Advisory Board in accordance with the Divisional Regulations from the conclusion of the 2024 ACT Division Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the 2026 ACT Division Annual General Meeting.

The ACT DAB Chair advised that due to the timing of nominations received by the Divisional Advisory Board it was deemed appropriate to elect Charlotte Nicol by Governance members to the Divisional Advisory Board at the AGM rather than the DAB appoint them.

The ACT Division's Governance Members APPROVED the election of Charlotte Nicol to the Divisional Advisory Board for the conclusion of the 2024 ACT Division Annual General Meeting until the conclusion of the 2026 ACT Division Annual General Meeting. This was seconded by Von Harrington.

#### 4 Reports/Updates

#### 4.1 Year in review

The ACT Divisional Advisory Board Chair tabled the following Year in Review Report.

We help to build welcoming, safe, and inclusive communities by:

- The ACT Humanitarian Settlement Program supported over 250 humanitarian entrants integrate into Australian life. Across the Nation we support 4,104 refugees from 47 countries
- Our Family and Domestic Violence Financial Assistance program provided financial assistance and referral support to 7,694 temporary visa card holders from over 100 countries.
- Our Support for Trafficked People Program supports people recovering from human trafficking, forced marriage, and forced labour. In 2023/2024 Nationally we supported, 2,267 people who experienced human trafficking or forced marriage who received intensive support to get them back on their feet
- The Restoring Family Links is a centralised program that helps connect family members who
  have been separated due to conflict, disaster, or migration. In F/Y23-24 we sought the location
  of 1,643 missing people. In the ACT we have an incredible tracing volunteer to support this
  program.
- Emergency relief support is provided by our Safety Net Program and is provided to help people meet basic needs, like food, medicine, or shelter. In the ACT we distributed funds to 72 people.

We work with communities to strengthen disaster resilience, helping people prepare for and recover from disasters

- In the ACT we conducted over 20 Emergency ready group workshops, particularly focusing on multicultural communities
- Our incredible ACT Volunteer workforce was deployed all over the nation including to support the Northern Rivers, Northern Territory and Queensland

We bring global experience to local programs

- Our local ACT Aged & Community Visiting Scheme matched 124 clients. 95 volunteers were involved completing 1990 visits
- Our ACT Telecross & Telechat 4235 hours supporting 121 clients. 63 volunteers were involved
- The ACT Meals on Wheels Team supports 716 clients delivering 91,953 meals. 77 volunteers are involved.
- The Birth Family Advocacy Support service provided support to over 270 Birth families empowering families to understand Child Protection and the Child protection system.

Our Volunteers and our Members are part of our DNA

A massive thank you to our ACT volunteers. We have 500 active volunteers in the ACT and 96 members.



• Our Dedicated Trauma Teddie team led by Ruth in the ACT knitted 2,024 bears this year.

We provide high quality affordable clothing and goods to people across ACT

• We have two successful retail stores in the ACT in Woden and the City

We deliver high Quality First Aid training

• This FY we trained 1,621 students across the territory. Additionally, we ran training with the Uni Lodge, Canberra private hospital, Department of Defence, Telstra, and CSIRO.

Acknowledgement of the 110 years of Australian Red Cross and our impact acting for humanity for those 110 years.

- Australian Red Cross is established under a Royal Charter for the purpose of aiding the Australian people in any public disaster, calamity or need.
- We can only be recognised in this way because Australia is a party to the Geneva Conventions and has enacted legislation to grant authority for the National Society to be constituted.
- Our auxiliary role means that we have a unique relationship with commonwealth, state, and local public authorities, working in accordance with seven Fundamental Principles which include neutrality, impartiality, and independence.
- On Tuesday 13 August 2024, Members, Volunteers and Staff attended Parliamentary Question Time as guests where the 110-year celebration of Red Cross was acknowledged.

#### 4.2 Australian Red Cross Lifeblood Update

Guest speaker Sally Deveson, Relationships Manager, ACT Donor Engagement at Australian Red Cross Lifeblood who gave an update on Australian Red Cross Lifeblood's donations in the ACT.

Sally also introduced Special Guest Speaker Dhruvan Rajesh who spoke about his firsthand experiences with receiving life-giving plasma from Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

#### 4.3 International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Richard Rowe, Chair, ACT International Humanitarian Law Advisory Committee gave a verbal update on the work being performed in the ACT on IHL. Richard also acknowledged the close collaboration with both Kylie Leach, Head of International Humanitarian Law, Australian Red Cross and Sally Deveson, Australian Red Cross Lifeblood and the IHL Committee.

#### 4.4 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

Mijica Lus gave apologies for Brittany Shepheard, Youth Advisory Council representative. Mijica then gave the yearly update for the Youth Advisory Committee.

#### 5 Awards

#### 5.1 Presentation of Long Service awards, Division Service Awards, & National Awards

The Division recognised the following people who were presented with the following awards:

- Airdrie Isbister was awarded the Dorren Lawrence Award (Volunteer)
- Reihaneh Attaran was awarded a Service Award (Staff)
- Catherine Hempstead was awarded a Service Award (Volunteer)
- Angelo Valois was awarded a Service Award (Volunteer)

#### 6 Other Business

#### 6.1 Other Business

No other items of business were raised.



7	Meeting Close	
7.1	Meeting Close The ACT Divisional Advisory Board Chair declared the meeting closed at 19	)15pm.
7.2	7.2 Light Refreshments The MC then invited attendees to mingle and partake of the light refreshments provided.	
Signed	as a true and correct record of the proceedings:	
Alex L ACT D	Lia Division Council Chair	Date

ATTACHMENT A: List of attendees



#### ATTACHMENT A: List of attendees

Attendees in person:
Eva Wanda
Dani Sweetman
Rina Bruinsma
Kylie Leach
David Dumbrell
Jacqui Pinkava
Catherine Hempstead
Rima Morgan
Elika Towhidkhah
Sonam Yangki
Charlotte Nicol
Noel Thilakan
Alex Lia
Reihaneh Attaran
Joanna Adamson
Farzaneh Kalhor
Eveline Kuang
Ussama Abuassa
Mijic Lus
Angelo Valois
Gop Gai
Jnoic Sadassvan Nauri
Airdrie Isbister
John Stafford
Elaine Dargan
Von Harrington
Marc Arabella
Richard Rowe
Denise Turton
Jessi Claudianos
Marianne Swientek
Andrew Colvin

Sally Deveson



Dhrunvan and family

Attendees online:

**Charles Burkitt** 

Lloyd Doddridge

Jai O'Toole