DRAFT Minutes of Meeting

**Meeting** Vision 2020 Australia Annual General Meeting

**Meeting Date** 2 November 2023, 1.00pm AEDST

1. Welcome and apologies

The Hon Christopher Pyne, Chair of Vision 2020 Australia, declared the meeting open at 1.04pm and welcomed members and guests. The traditional owners of the many land’s attendees were on were acknowledged.

1. Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting

The Hon Christopher Pyne presented the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

**Resolution 1:** That the minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting are adopted.

 **Moved:** Damian Papps **Seconded:** Fiona Woods **Motion Carried**

1. Electronic Ballot to elect Directors

Noting that in line with section 31.7 of the Constitution, an election was required to elect five of the eight nominees for appointment to the Vision 2020 Australia Board, with the election held via an electronic ballot, using True Vote system granting all paid corresponding member organisations had access to vote.

Nominations were received by the following.

* Mr Brandon Ah Tong
* Mr Dale Cleaver
* Professor Lisa Keay
* Mr Peter Larsen
* Mr Damian Papps
* The Hon Christopher Pyne
* Dr Kris Rallah-Baker
* Mr Murray Smith
* Ms Jane Schuller

who, being eligible, offer themselves for election as Directors, pursuant to Article 28.2.

Of the eight nominees Brandon Ah Tong, Dale Cleaver, The Hon Christopher Pyne, Dr Kris Rallah-Baker and Jane Schuller were successful in their applications for directorship for a three-year term. The Chair congratulated the successful applicants.

The Chair would also like to thank those Directors whose terms have come to an end; Dr Jessica Gallagher for her 9 years, Jaki Adams for her 6 years and Shaun Tatipata for his 3 years of service to the Board and thanked them all for their time and dedication throughout their tenures.

There will also be up the 3 further appointments to the Board through a skills gap audit of the directors to ensure good governance of the organisation.

1. Special Business

The Chair also presented the Confirmation of the new constitution as a special business item for the AGM, noting apart of the True Vote system the members were asked to vote on the replacement of the constitution and was happy to confirm that the membership has voted and ratified the change in the Constitution. I now deem the Constitution dated 2023 to be the organisations new constitution.

1. Chair’s address and presentation of Annual Report 2022-23

The Chair reported on the past year as positive progress to improve equity and access to eye health services and ensure independence and participation for people who are blind or low vision. The Organisations relationship with the Australian Government is healthy and our programme of doing more at the State and Territory level is growing.

Acknowledging former CEO, Patricia Sparrow, who departed the organisation in December 2022. Patricia laid the groundwork of our strategic direction which has begun to bear fruit through the efforts of the team over the past 12 months. And recognised the excellent work if the current CEO, Carly Iles. Carly has transferred her enthusiasm and dedication to the sector from her previous role as policy and advocacy manager to leading the organisation. Her vigour in approach to make a positive impact and drive our strategy has provided a solid foundation for the organisation. Noting there have been several highlights this year, including the annual Parliamentary Friends Group for Eye Health and Vision Care with co-chairs Meryl Swanson and David Gillespie to raise awareness of how easy it can be to deliver accessible and inclusive events. Barry Jones Vision Oration, which was delivered by ABC disability affairs reporter, Nas Campanella and the establishment of a genuine Reflect Reconciliation Action Plan that places the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the centre of our efforts has been an achievement I, and the Board, are proud of.

The Chair thanked all of those who have helped the organisation reach its achievements. The committed staff, Board, Committee members and of course, the membership noting the members remain at the centre of Vision 2020’s endeavours.

1. Chief Executive Officer’s report

The Chair handed over to Ms Iles who commenting on her first year as CEO is a privilege. Noting the previous year concluded with the development of the five-year strategic plan and this year the focus was on turning strategy into action.

Highlighting the organisation’s focus on; advocating for improvements in the NDIS and aged care systems to meet the specific needs of people with vision loss. Development and launch of Audio Described content on ABC iview, making inroads made with political engagement and advocacy efforts at the state and territory level. The successful World Sight Day screening event in NSW Parliament, the NSW state election campaign calling for action to reduce cataract surgery wait times in public hospitals. The organisations completion of the organisations first reconciliation action plan is another step towards becoming a stronger ally for First Nations People. Actively supporting the Voice to Parliament and Allies for Uluru Coalition.

Carly also was proud to roll out the member events that were held across the country, providing insight into the challenges and opportunities for eye health in each state. As well as increasing the member benefits by launching a new education and information series. Confirming the achievements of the past 12 months have been made possible through the support of the Board, staff and membership.

1. Financial statements and reports

Mr Damian Papps, member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Standing Committee noted that the Directors’ and Auditor Reports including financials for the year ending 30 June 2023 were on the Vision 2020 Australia website and that these showed that the organisation is in a sound financial position with an unqualified report.

He noted that for the reporting period:

* Total income for the year was $2.666 million, with 71% of that from Federal Government funding and a further 14% from Victorian Government funding for the Vision Initiative/ Education and Development program.
* Membership revenue accounted for a further 13% of income and remains a critical part of our income as it supports activities such as advocacy and engagement.
* Like many organisations, staff expenses were the one of the largest categories of expenses in the 2022-23-year accounting for 29% of expenses.
* Occupancy expenses were the next highest category at 3%, which includes contracted professional services.
* Overall, a surplus of $26,986 was recorded for the year.
* The organisation has a strong balance sheet including solid financial reserves and on 30 June 2023, had net assets of $1.2 million.

Mr Papps noted that the Board is committed to maintaining sound financial reserves that are conservatively managed, but also recognised the need to balance this with investments to support the membership and had therefore committed some of these surplus funds to sector wide initiatives over the coming year.

In closing, Mr Papps formally laid the financial statements and reports before the meeting for consideration in accordance with the ACNC guidelines.

1. Appointment of the Auditor

The Chair moved on to the appointment of the Auditor, McBain McCartin and Co has agreed to act as Auditor for the 2024-27 financial years.

As part of the TrueVote ballot system eligible members were asked to vote on this appointment. The confirmation is that this has been ratified and McBain, McCartin and Co will be appointed as Auditor for Vision 2020 Australia for the 2024-2027 period.

1. Meeting close

As no other business was raised by the membership, the meeting was declared closed at 1.2pm AEDT, with members encouraged to view the Annual Report and reports from the policy committee chairs on the Vision 2020 Australia website.

## Attendees

Pete Haydon Australian College of Optometry

Katrina Ronne Australian Society of Ophthalmologists

Deb Deshayes Blind Citizens Australia

John Simpson Blind Citizens Australia

Justine Cain Diabetes Australia - National Office

Karen Titheridge EverAbility Group

Dale Cleaver Guide Dogs NSW/ACT / Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Jock Beveridge Guide Dogs Queensland

Nicky Long Guide Dogs Victoria

Associate Professor Mitchell Anjou Indigenous Eye Health Unit at Melbourne University

Amanda Trotman Optical Distributors and Manufacturers Association of Australia

Skye Cappuccio Optometry Australia

Professor Mark Radford Queensland Eye Institute

Mr Brendon Gardner Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital

Associate Professor MeiYing Boon School of Optometry and Vision Science - University of Canberra

Associate Professor Andrew Metha School of Optometry and Vision Science - University of Melbourne

Mr Damian Papps Seeing Differently with the Royal Society for the Blind

Jennifer Gersbeck The Fred Hollows Foundation

Mark Carmichael The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists

Honourable Christopher Pyne Chair, Vision 2020 Australia

Jane Schuller Deputy Chair/ Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Jaki Adams Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Dr Jessica Gallagher Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Dr Kate Reid Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Murray Smith Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Fiona Woods Director, Vision 2020 Australia

Professor Nitin Verma Director, Vision 2020 Australia

### Apologies

Mr Shane Mohor Aboriginal Health Council of South Australia

Ms Heather Machin Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association

Mr James Colligan Beyond Blindness

Ms Selina Madeleine Brien Holden Foundation

Ms Yvette Waddell Brien Holden Vision Institute

Mr Lester Wynne-Jones Can: Do4Kids

Connor Costello CBM Australia

Professor Keith Martin Centre for Eye Research Australia

Mr Glen Noonan Diabetes Victoria

Mr Luke Weinel Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand

Mr Remy Di Ponio Foresight Australia

Mr Richard Wylie Glaucoma Australia

Mr Larry Kornhauser Keratoconus Australia Inc

The Hon Bryan Hearn OAM JP Lions Eye Health Program

Professor Bill Morgan Lions Eye Institute

Dr Kathy Chapman Macular Disease Foundation Australia

Mr Chris Rehn NextSense

Mr Wayne Hogan OneSight Essilor Luxottica Foundation

Ms Vickie Anderson Orientation and Mobility Association of Australasia

Ms Amanda French Orthoptics Australia

Ms Julia Hall Retina Australia

Mr Richard Barker Queensland Braille Writing Association (Braille House)

Ms Philippa Nicholson Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Professor Peter McCluskey Save Sight Institute

Professor Lisa Keay School of Optometry and Vision Science - University of NSW

Ms Judy Hatswell Sight for All Foundation

Ms Lyndall De Marco AM St Johns Ambulance Queensland

Professor Garry Fitzpatrick University of Western Australia

Mr Abe Ropitini Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Mr Ron Hooton Vision Australia