

# Minutes PS Superannuants Executive Committee

## Meeting held at 10.30am on 25 November 2024

In the Meeting Room 5, Mead Hall, Flinders Street Baptist Church, 65  
Flinders Street Adelaide.

ATTENDANCE: President Dr Micheal Evans, Chair Executive Peter Frick, Ian Beckingham, Jim Rhodes, Dr Keren Wicks, Don Campbell, (Zoom), Dr Ray Hickman, Observers Eileen Prichard, Peter Baker (Zoom)

APOLOGIES: Secretary Barry Grear AO

The Chair gave an “**acknowledgement to country**”.

1. **The Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 28 October 2024** were CONFIRMED  
Moved Evans, Seconded Hickman
2. **The Minutes of the General Meeting of 28 October 2024** were CONFIRMED Moved  
Wicks, Seconded Frick
3. Chairman asked for any **Conflicts of interest** – there was none.

#### 4. **Payment of Honorarium**

As last year except Ian Beckingham increase to \$95

Michael Evans	\$300.00
Barry Grear	\$150.00
Don Campbell	\$150.00
Peter Frick	\$300.00
Ian Beckingham	\$95.00
Ray Hickman	\$75.00
Jim Rhodes	\$75.00
Keren Wicks	\$75.00

APPROVED Moved Evans, Seconded Frick

5. **Treasurer’s Report.** The Report Dated for October was circulated to all members.

#### a. **Expenses**

Vodaphone \$127.47

APPROVED Moved Evans Seconded Frick

6. **Membership Officers Report.** Membership Officer gave a written report. Report ACCEPTED.

Don advised that 3 members had paid their Qantas Club membership for life.

**8, Guest Speaker Coordinator's Report.** Today the speaker will be Stan James, well known arts critic with the Advertiser. Stan will talk on "The Australian Film Industry Then and Now". He will draw on his long career as a journalist, foreign correspondent, sub editor and even cartoonist. Annual Meeting in February is still to be decided due to the resignation of our speaker from SuperSA.

**9. Communication Manager Report.** Peter Frick gave a written report.

ACCEPTED. The dates for elections and the Superannuant were listed.

**10. Freedom of Information Request.** Ray Hickman reported that our request had resulted in NO as an answer and there was a disfunction between the Treasurer and SuperSA as it is evident that Treasury Officers are key to the answer we are looking for. Ray will prepare an updated letter for the Secretary to send.

**11. Report of the APPS Advisory Group** NOTED Moved Campbell, Seconded Frick

**12. Victorian Sub Committee Report.** NOTED Moved Campbell, Seconded Hickman

**13. Victorian Members Meeting** NOTED Moved Campbell, Seconded Frick

**14. Other Business** the Executive have been discussing for many months

about questions for the SA and Federal Treasurers about Tax withheld from Super SA Pensions and their implications for members. It was considered that actuarial help would be needed. Following further discussion, it was agreed that Ray would look at calculations that he had made previously and submit them to the Executive for further consideration.

CLOSURE. The meeting closed at 11.15am South Australia Time

NEXT MEETING. 24 February 2025 at 10.30am.

### **Meeting dates for 2025**

31 March

28 April

26 May

30 June

28 July

25 August

29 September

27 October

24 November

## Treasurer's Report

<b><u>S.A. SUPERANNUANTS</u></b>							
<b><u>TREASURER'S REPORT - October 2024</u></b>							
							<b><u>Y.T.D</u></b>
Cashbook balance as at 30/09/2024						\$10,382.01	
<b><u>ADD:</u></b>	Receipts						
	Membership - Ann & Life		\$1,970.00				\$19,835.00
	Raffle proceeds		\$0.00				\$0.00
	Sundries		\$0.00				\$100.01
	Bank interest		\$0.00				\$0.00
	Investment Interest		\$0.00				\$0.00
	Redeemed Investment		\$0.00				\$0.00
	Petty cash		\$0.00				\$0.00
		Total	\$1,970.00			Total	\$19,935.01
<b><u>LESS:</u></b>	Payments						
	Hall Hire		\$330.00				\$1,310.00
	Office Expenses		\$37.90				\$1,230.96
	Fees		\$1,860.00				\$3,917.96
	Newsletter Expenses		\$0.00				\$5,696.06
	Reinvested Int or Div'd		\$0.00				\$0.00
	New Investment		\$0.00				\$0.00
	Executive Expenses		\$0.00				\$0.00
	Website		\$0.00				\$548.89
	Tax		\$557.79				\$557.79
	Sundries		\$16.95				\$1,605.18
	Insurance		\$0.00				\$4,220.00
		Total	\$2,802.64			Total	\$19,086.84
Cashbook balance as at 30/09/2024						\$9,549.37	
Cashbook balance year to date							\$848.17
<b><u>BANK RECONCILIATION</u></b>							
Balance as per Bank Statement							\$9,587.27
Less: Unpaid expenses	Envelopes, M Evans					\$37.90	
						Total	\$37.90
Balance as per Cashbook							\$9,549.37
						<b>Out of Balance</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b><u>INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS</u></b>							
		Opened	Principal	Rate	Matures	Interest	Maturity Action
<b>Investment 1</b>							
BankSA Term Deposit		9/10/2023	\$21,367.17	4.85%	9/10/2024	Maturity	Pr(\$21367.17) & h
BankSA Term Deposit		9/10/2024	\$22,406.32	4.70%	9/07/2025	Maturity	
<b>Investment 2</b>							
Argo Shares (5266)		26/08/2008	\$19,522.50	Value at	31/10/2024	\$46,130.16	
<b>Investment 3</b>							
BankSA Term Dep		29/02/2024	\$30,030.56	4.98%	31/10/2024	Maturity	
<b>Investment 4</b>							
CBA Term Deposit		12/07/2024	\$22,408.61	4.75%	12/07/2025	Maturity	
<b>TOTAL INVESTED:</b>	<b>Excluding shares</b>		\$72,344.07	<b>Including shares</b>		\$118,474.23	
<b>ADD</b>	CASHBOOK BALANCE		\$9,549.37				
	CASH ON HAND		\$0.00				
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>Excluding shares</b>		<u>\$81,893.44</u>	<b>Including shares</b>		<u>\$128,023.60</u>	

## **Membership Officer's Report**

A sprinkling of responses has steadily trickled through to the Membership Desk which has been variously located in Ferntree Gully, Qantas Club lounge in Melbourne, and in Michigan, USA. I appreciate our Treasurer Mike offering to receive paper correspondence and scan it and send to me by email to process.

The "Missing" Report has been embraced by a number of members, with some completing the form on Page 8 and posting or scanning or emailing or phoning our Message Service.

This has prompted some to join as life partner members and others to send cheques (an issue we as an executive need to approach with some urgency as some members come up with options such as Money Orders (expensive) or bank notes (fortunately not coins).

I am finally preparing Templates to use with Mail Merge to communicate with those Members who do not use emails (or else do not want to tell us). This is covering some 33 members in the categories of RTS, bounced emails, widows entitlements to their deceased spouses Association Membership or renewals or donations.

Generally the funds coming in have reduced the need to cash in term deposits, our Treasurer had informed me, however I still strive to encourage memberships in various ways. I am glad to report that the Public Service Association of SA has agreed to promote us in their next Magazine (after the current edition).

Through the Advisory Group we aim to pursue current and retired memberships.

## **Communication Manager's Report**

1. Critical dates for the 2025 election process:
  - a. Nominations for the committee sought by web site advert (01/12/2024) and email notice (01/12/2024 and 01/01/2025)
  - b. Nominations to Barry by 21/01/2025
  - c. List of nominees in the Superannuant by 03/02/2025
  - d. AGM 24/02/2025
2. Deadline for the January Superannuant 21/01/2025
  - a. To the Printer 23/01/2025
  - b. Emailed Superannuant 28/01/2025
  - c. Posted Superannuants 29/01/2025
  - d. Delivery of posted Superannuant by 03/02/2025

3. Notice of AGM

- a. On the web site and by email by 10/02/2025

### **Advisory Group Report**

Background:

A small group of PSS Members, plus others identified with a specific interest in persons in receipt of Defined Benefit Superannuation Pensions, (or potentially all Public Sector Pensions), has met on a number of occasions, with an objective of protecting the interests of this declining cohort of superannuant pensioners, as various changes in legislation impact them inequitably, at both State and Federal Government levels.

This “working group” has emerged from work initiated by PSS Member, Ray Hickman, who formed a group to identify and discuss inequities in emerging decisions of Governments impacting adversely on this declining cohort of superannuants.

The current group consists of:-

- Ray Hickman - PSS SA,
- Don Campbell - PSS Victoria (Current convenor)
- John Pauley - Tasmanian Public Sector Superannuants, plus currently Chair of ACSPRO\*,
- Annette Barbetti - PSS Canberra and former employee of SCOA\*\* Australia,
- Ron Degruchy - President of SCOA WA and WA self funded retirees organisation.
- Ian Thomas - Victorian representative of former education sector employees and COSRAV\*\*\*,
- Peter Baker - PSS Queensland,
- Richard Clough - PSS Victoria,
- Barry Schafer - PSS Victoria.

\*ACSPRO - Australian Council of Public Sector Superannuants - a National “peak body” representing member organisations. PS Superannuants is/was? a member.

\*\*SCOA - Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association - now closed, except for the WA Branch.

\*\*\*COSRAV - Council of State Retiree Associations in Victoria - a “peak body” now very limited in activity.

The group has met on several occasions and has identified a number of specific areas for further detailed consideration, and emerging issues, the most concerning being the decreasing numbers of defined benefit pensioners, and the most recent being proposed changes to the legislated costs of aged care.

The group is considering ways to consolidate the information held by individual members of the group and how to retain this in a form accessible to all PSS members.

It is considered that a database of these issues, made accessible to PSS Members via its website, would:

- Be an enhancement to our efforts to retain and grow PSS Membership.
- The information would assist PSS to lobby against any inequitable legislative changes
- PSS members would be better informed with well-prepared evidence to do so individually.

### **Key Discussion items on 13 November meeting**

Notes of Meeting held on 13 November 2024

Attendance: Don Campbell, Peter Baker, Ian Thomas, Richard Clough,

Apologies: Annette Barbetti, Ray Hickman.

Liaison with the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC)

Don led the discussion noting that the CSC will present via Zoom at the next Victorian Members meeting.

Recruiting new members.

Discussion focussed on working towards recruiting through the relevant unions.

Don reported a positive contact was made with PSA of SA who have agreed to insert our one-page flyer in their next issue of their Magazine.

Past information indicates all pre-retirement counselling is conducted internally by various individual "HR" functions of government not the CSC.

A list of "target" unions is to be prepared by Richard Clough.

Use of PSS website to recruit new members

Membership Officer Don and Peter Baker, will liaise with Peter Frick to explore ways that can deliver more search "hits" on the PSS website and how this can be converted to new memberships.

Aged Care

New legislation is pending, and various interest groups are conducting surveys of members about the impacts of this. DB Pensioners will pay more than other superannuants, due to taxes paid on their pension being included in their calculated income. This group asks the Executive to consider surveying our members of these changes, or encouraging them to respond to others surveys, eg National Seniors.

Resignation of Don Campbell as Convenor of this group, effective at the 2025 AGM, at the suggestion of Peter Baker, being the annual cycle of role reviews. The group reluctantly accepts Don's resignation, noting his work to keep the group operating.

(Richard Clough will call meetings of the group until/unless another arrangement can be made.

### Summary

- The AG last met on 13 November.
- Don Campbell is stepping down from convenor role for 2025 due to pressure of other work, an alternate convenor is available now, 2025 selection to follow within the group for Exec endorsement.
- A strategy development meeting in December will identify and prioritise Issues that we could address for APSS; Exec endorsement to be obtained early 2025.
- Various surveys arrive at APSS and the Advisory Group, some with short lead time, we need to formalise dealing with them between the Advisory group, Executive and membership base at large.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 2pm.

## **Victorian Report**

Preparations for the 27 November Victoria Meeting are progressing with CSC Guest Speaker Chris Parsons joining us via Zoom from Canberra.

A PDF of the Speakers PowerPoint has been received in preparation for this quarterly meeting. Our promo reads "Even if you have never attended a Victorian Branch APSS Meeting before, we are excited to invite you to attend our next meeting and ask questions about "Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) and Public Sector Superannuation". Our Guest speaker is Chris Parsons Senior Manager Engagement from Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation. Chris will explain the services which are available, or could be available, in some cases it just needs Members to ask. He will also take you on a Guided Tour of the CSC Website.

Peter Baker will also present a 15-minute segment on IT matters based on the Federal Government's Be Connected - Every Australian online ([esafety.gov.au](http://esafety.gov.au))