

AI Australia National Board Report for meeting held on 22 May 2021

Agenda item	Information / Report
Minutes of past meetings	The minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2021 were confirmed.
Risk Appetite Statement, review of major risks and Risk Register	The Board reviewed the risk appetite statement. It was noted that the AI Australia Management Team monitors risks at all their meetings, and that the Risk Register is tabled at all Audit and Risk Committee meetings.
Business Continuity Plan	The Board endorsed the proposed Business Continuity Plan, designed to provide an immediate continuity response to an event that would render a critical function or resource to become unavailable.
Human Rights Impact: Working in partnership	<p>Two members of the Myanmar diaspora community in Australia were invited to present to the Board, so that Directors could hear the voice of people we work in partnership with and seek their feedback and suggestions on areas of improvement.</p> <p>Recent work and outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AI Australia organised media and lobbying training to prepare members from the Myanmar diaspora community for meetings with government representatives. In total, 20 meetings with MPs and Senators were held. - AI Australia was the first organisation to successfully campaign against a company having ties with the military in Myanmar. - Joint efforts led to the establishment of the Parliamentary Friends of Myanmar, comprising 28 members. - Successful advocacy for the government to extend Myanmar students' visas. <p>The speakers thanked Amnesty International for their support, and in particular the effort made to listen to the community to understand what they wanted to do. The opportunity to involve other Amnesty sections in a similar way was discussed.</p>



Anti-Racism	<p>Staff members leading on the anti-racism project presented their work, some key elements of which are integrated in the Diversity, Inclusion & Wellbeing work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently four pillars to this work: proactive campaigns, alliances and partnerships, communications and reactive work, and internal anti-racism. • Examples of proactive campaigns, institutional campaigns and reactive communications were provided. • The recently developed Allyship guide was presented. It incorporates the anti-racism leadership team's own experience and aims to change the conversation about racism in Australia and to empower everyday people with the tools to challenge racism. The guide is a product of extensive consultation and was presented page by page to the Board. It explains how to be an ally and provides a number of tips and concrete examples of how to engage in conversations to challenge racism. It was launched on social media on 11 May.
2015 - 2020 Vision in Review and 2020 Year in Review	<p>The Board reviewed drafts of the 2015 - 2020 Vision in Review and of the 2020 Year in Review, which will form part of the reports tabled at the Annual General Meeting.</p>
Annual General Meeting update	<p>Preliminary data shows that 319 members voted in the recent elections for Activism and Leadership Committee members and General Meeting Voters. In 2020, 307 members voted. In addition, 57 members voted in the ALC elections for three Regions.</p> <p>The election results will be published on 31 May.</p> <p>The Annual General Meeting notice will be sent on 3 June. The closing dates for resolutions will be 12 June and for questions on notice 17 June. The AGM will be held on 3 July.</p> <p>Five Board nominations have been received for two positions.</p> <p>The Board appointed PrepCom to determine the winner of the June Fassina Award.</p>
Management reports	<p>The National Director presented the monthly management update as well as the April 2021 finance report. Momentum is building around the Vision Launch and Amnesty's 60th birthday celebrations.</p> <p>Key highlights included:</p>



Indigenous Rights

- Queensland and Northern Territory Parliaments have passed extremely punitive youth justice laws that are likely to undermine Close the Gap incarceration targets and jeopardise progress on Raise the Age. The Indigenous Rights Team travelled to both jurisdictions to build and strengthen opposition to the bills. They gathered broad media coverage and a groundswell of community support in opposition of the legislation, but were not successful in stopping the legislation passing.

Individuals at Risk/International

- Worked with the acquisition team to promote new Individuals at Risk cases, including a Pakistani Christian couple sentenced to death for blasphemy.
- In collaboration with members of the Tigrayan community, following the escalation of violence by Ethiopian forces against civilians, commenced a round of advocacy meetings.

Refugees

- Renewed advocacy efforts with the government to expand the current community sponsorship program for refugees.

Strategic Campaigns/Advocacy

- Secured the involvement of cross-party Federal Members of Parliament to establish two new parliamentary groups: Australia-Myanmar Parliamentary Group and Parliamentary Friends of Uyghurs Group.
- Highlighted the human rights impacts and implications of the Australian Government's India ban with broad media coverage. Also engaged with the diaspora community including hosting *Solidarity with India Vigil* with several Australian-Indian community organisations and leaders to bring attention to the COVID-19 crisis in India, and #strandedAustralians.
- Released a new briefing on NSW police's policing of protests during the COVID-19 pandemic and met with a number of NSW MPs, who were supportive of our briefing and findings.
- Leading the sector on advocacy for a Waiver from Certain Provisions of the Agreement on

	<p>Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), including meetings with MPs, letters and media. Waiving those provisions would allow more countries to manufacture and distribute COVID-19 vaccines and health products.</p> <p>Media/Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2950 pieces of coverage, with a 68.4% share of voice across the period. • Amnesty secured high-reach coverage for the annual death penalty report on the ABC's website with a potential reach of 20m. • Amnesty's position on the India travel ban also secured significant coverage in new audiences such as Weekend TODAY on Nine and Sky News. • Our aim to impact and change the narrative on youth crime in QLD and the NT (both jurisdictions introducing harsh new youth justice amendments) resulted in a total of 160 pieces of coverage with a potential reach to 162 million people (including favourable coverage in atypical media NT News, Triple M, 4BC). <p>Organising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on building growth in key new activist leadership programs. A new team lead and a regional media support role have been recruited to the Activist communications team (ACT) and 6 new activists have been recruited into the Activist skills collective (ASC). <p>Activism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing a planned Telegram journey for an engaged audience, to prime them for offline mobilisations during Refugee Week. <p>Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new membership engagement officer started in May.
Board committee minutes	<p>The Board noted the minutes of the Activism and Membership Committee meeting held on 6 May 2021 and the Activism Forum draft agenda.</p> <p>The Board noted the minutes of the International Issues Committee meeting held on 12 May 2021.</p> <p>The Board approved the Board position on the Global Assembly motions under appeal, a vote on which was due to happen by 26 May.</p>



	<p>The Board thanked Sarah Faulkner, Chair of the IIC, for leading on this important piece of work. The summary of motions the IIC compiles each year is routinely shared with other Amnesty International offices in the Asia Pacific region and is greatly valued by our colleagues in the region.</p>
Next meeting	<p>The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 June 2021.</p>