

Amnesty International Australia National Board Report for meeting held on 20 July 2021

Agenda item	Information / Report
Minutes of past meetings	The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2021 and out of session decision of 1 July 2021 were confirmed.
Information Technology Roadmap and Cybersecurity	<p>The Board discussed the external review of AI Australia's IT systems. It was agreed that the current IT infrastructure needs improvements to deliver the 2025 Vision. Revised costings including <i>pro bono</i> contributions are being put together prior to any decisions.</p> <p>Any change of infrastructure will be communicated early to activists and volunteers who use AI Australia's systems.</p>
June Management Report	<p>The monthly management update, finance report and fundraising dashboard were tabled, as well as a mid-year review of achievements against the 2021 Plans.</p> <p>Key highlights for the month of June included:</p> <p>Indigenous Rights (CIE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Rights team members took part in a successful mission to Halls Creek to strengthen relationships with Social Reinvestment WA, a key jurisdictional focus of our effort to Raise the Age. Amnesty and partner organisations opposed the NT Government plans to expand the Don Dale youth detention facility. More than 8,300 people have taken action against the proposal and the campaign continues with growing support from within the Government lining up with us. <p>Individuals At Risk/International</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals at Risk cases have been a strong focus over the recent month with a total of 96,811 individual actions being taken for Victor Yeimo (West Papua), six Cambodian Youth environment activists from the Mother Nature organisation, Uyghur man Mirzat. Iranian prisoner Ahmadreza, 83-year-old Australian Shokrollah detained in Iran, and Nazanin, also detained in Iran. Burundian human rights defender Germain Rukuki has been released after serving more than four years in prison. Germain's release comes after the



appeal court reduced his sentence from 32 years to just one. Germain was arrested, prosecuted and convicted for his human rights work. In 2020 hundreds of thousands of people, including 15,000 in Australia, called for Germain to be released and reunited with his family, including his son who had been born shortly after Germain's arrest.

- Saudi Arabian women's rights activist Nassima al-Sada was released from prison on 27 June 2021. Amnesty has campaigned for her release since 2018, when she was imprisoned for campaigning for the right for women to drive and to end the repressive male guardianship laws. Over 40,000 Australians took action calling for her release'

Refugees/My New Neighbour

- Face to face Refugee Week events were curtailed by Covid restrictions, though online events from the Sydney Town Hall, featuring Moz, Farhad and Midnight Oil, and a key event for My New Neighbour went ahead.
- The My New Neighbour campaign was presented to a rousing reception at the flagship Refugee Alternatives Conference.

Anti Racism

- Campaigners presented to the Senate committee (that AIA successfully campaigned for) on discriminatory practices by the Australian Practitioner Health Regulatory Agency in relation to language tests for health professionals seeking employment in their qualified field. A detailed submission containing case studies of lived experience detailed these discriminatory practices. The AIA campaign to seek broader activist and supporter engagement will commence in August.

Media

- 2570 pieces of coverage, with a 64% share of voice across the month.
- Key issues of coverage included the first anniversary of the National Security laws in Hong Kong, Shrokrallah Jebelli's case and the United Nations Universal Periodic Review.

Organising:

- 20 groups across the country organised events and



	<p>vigils for Refugee Week (many had to be postponed for COVID reasons) including the first offline vigil in WA organised by the newly revitalised WA Refugee Network. The Victorian Refugee Network has also been revitalised with several new members and new co-convenors for the group stepping in. Our National Refugee Network led one of the major events for Refugee Week, the 'Making Australia Home' webinar.</p> <p>Activism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our solidarity action for activists from Uprising of the People who were arrested for their peaceful protest of the Youth Bail Bill in May wrapped up early July, with the 140 custom messages of solidarity we received being printed and mailed to Uprising of the People by the Indigenous Rights Team. • We recently completed a trial of the Telegram channel, testing its capacity and potential to mobilise supporters and build and retain an 'engaged' base of supporters for the Game Over campaign. The trial provided several learnings about our current supporter audience and the type of communication they need to become more engaged.
Annual General Meeting Report	<p>The Company Secretary Katie Wood thanked her PrepCom colleagues Cassandra Seery and Declan Davis, as well as the Board Chair, National Director, Governance Coordinator and all Board members for participating. Thanks were also extended to Katie for her hard work, expertise and integrity.</p> <p>The Preparatory Committee's report was noted. The feedback was on the whole positive and also yielded some lessons, in particular the need to find a better polling system. There were 94 attendees at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, compared to 78 in 2020.</p> <p>Discussion took place on setting up other fora during the year, at which members will have regular opportunities to provide feedback to the Board and management and ask questions.</p>
Activism Forum	<p>The Board approved the proposed agenda, noting that the 2021 Activism Forum will be held virtually on 18-19 September.</p> <p>Directors acknowledged the work done by many people, particularly the Activism and Membership Committee, and the</p>



	steering committee composed of Carol King (Chair), Amanda Atlee (staff representative), Camille Furtado, Greg Stitt, Katrina North and Lisa Annese, as well as Peter Hanley and Brett Osler who have provided valuable input as part of the content group.
Board committee minutes and reports	<p>The Board noted the minutes of the Activism and Membership Committee meetings held on 8 July 2021, the report from the Governance Committee and approved a leave of absence for an external member of the Governance Committee.</p> <p>The Board will also review the Delegations Policy and advise the Governance Committee of any required changes.</p>
Next meeting	The next Board meeting will be on Saturday 21 August 2021.