

**Amnesty International Australia (AIA) National Board Report
for meeting held on 21 May 2022**

Agenda item	Information / Report
Minutes of past meetings	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2022 were confirmed.</p> <p>The out of session decision to nominate Raffaele Piccolo for one of the international vacancies of the Membership Review Committee was confirmed.</p>
Board Deputy Chair	Cassandra Seery was appointed Deputy Chair and member of the Activism and Membership Committee for a period of two years.
Board Charter	The Board finalised the updates to the revised Board Charter.
Induction of new Board members	The New Board Member induction process was reviewed and finalised.
Management reports	<p>The Board noted the May management report, the April 2022 Financial Report and the April 2022 Fundraising dashboard. It was a busy time, with increasing opportunities to connect with the Asia Pacific region and the global movement.</p> <p>Key highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human Rights Act Campaign planning is underway with both staff and Activists. • 2022 Human Rights Barometer research is complete and will be released post election. • The ACT is on track to legislate to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 in October. • Advocacy efforts are underway to convince the South Australian government to raise the age to 14. • Progress is being made in Queensland to reduce the number of First Nations children in watch houses. • 9,300 people completed the human rights education quiz on Invasion Day and 2,100 people completed the human rights educational quiz on famous First Nations People throughout history. Both quizzes were promoted to new audiences and successfully engaged new supporters to take action with Amnesty. • AIA's Youth Justice Direct Response TV ad was seen 3.3M times.



- Activists in the Northern Territory continue to be very active in the Close Don Dale campaign, aligning this work with the Raise The Age campaign more broadly.
- Activists from the National Indigenous Rights Network have been leading engagement with Federal Election candidates on Indigenous Rights issues.
- Preparations are underway in the leadup to the UN Human Rights Commissioner's visit to the Xinjiang Province.
- Ibrahim Ezz el-Din who spent 34 months detained arbitrarily solely for exercising his human rights, was released from prison in Egypt. Amnesty Australia Activists and supporters took action calling for his release during Write for Rights 2019.
- Online actions were set up for Individuals At Risk (IAR) cases, Zarema, detained because her son is a human rights lawyer, and Justyna, who is facing criminal charges for supporting people to access abortions.
- Amnesty campaigned successfully against the execution of Melissa Lucio, and on 25 April, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in the US granted an indefinite stay of execution, two days before Ms Lucio was scheduled to be put to death.
- Despite our best efforts to stop the execution in Singapore of Nagaenthran K Dharmalingam - who was originally scheduled to be executed on 10 November - he was tragically killed by the state on 27 April.
- Amnesty's annual death penalty statistics "Death Sentences and Executions 2021" was launched on 24 May. While executions were at their second lowest since 2010 (2020 being the lowest), death sentences jumped by almost 40% on 2020 figures.
- Vigils were held around the country marking [Mohammed El Halabi's Birthday](#).
- The Ukraine Emergency Appeal continued.
- Strategic advocacy was conducted with independent federal election candidates to brief them on refugee issues in the lead-up to the election.
- Refugee Rights Adviser, Dr Graham Thom represented Amnesty International at the invitation of the Rohingya community 2022 conference for Rohingya Rights in Sarajevo, Bosnia.
- AI Australia will support Refugee Representatives Sitarah Mohammadi and Sajjad Askary to attend the UNHCR consultations and Annual Tripartite Consultation with Refugees in Geneva in June.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activists engaged in vigils and creative ways to raise awareness on refugee rights for Palm Sunday. • AI Australia and the Australian Refugee Action Network (ARAN) held a well-attended online webinar 'A Fair Go For Refugees: Australia Can Do Better'. • In the lead-up to the election "Trans Rights are Human Rights" materials were developed and distributed, which included referrals to the Q-Line, a national phone and online service supporting Trans community members and families. • The new Anti-Racism Allyship guide 'How to Raise an Anti-Racism Ally' was promoted throughout April. The goal of the guide is to support adults to have conversations with children about racism and to equip children with the skills to challenge racism when they encounter it. • Membership numbers have increased since the last reporting period. • The number of Activist Leaders is growing thanks to activities such as the Human Rights Act campaigning, training programs, relationship-building with emerging activists and engagement initiatives. <p>Media pieces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During this period there were 132,000 pieces of coverage, with an 89% share of voice compared to competitors. • Key issues covered during this period were predominantly international issues on account of Amnesty in Australia being limited in campaigning during an election period. They included the ongoing war in Ukraine, including Amnesty's recent report and high-level mission, the potential winding back of abortion rights in the US, ongoing concerns over Banksia Hill youth detention centre
Risk Register and major risks	The risk register was reviewed, with special attention on heightened risks and new emerging risks.
Annual General Meeting preparations and governance update	<p>Not all General Meeting Voter positions were filled this year. The Board has tasked the AMC with improving the process and communication with members for GMV and ALC positions.</p> <p>The Board reviewed the Annual General Meeting resolutions and questions on notice, which were made available to General Meeting Voters prior to the AGM on 4th June.</p>



Human Rights: Building public support for a Human Rights Act	<p>Staff presented an update on the campaign to build public support for a federal Human Rights Act, covering aspects such as the research phase, strategic planning, desired outcomes and the communications and audience strategy.</p> <p>All external Board Committee members were invited to this segment.</p>
Asia Pacific Regional Forum report back	<p>The Asia Pacific Regional Forum (APRF) 2022 took place over the course of two days on 26 and 27 March. In all, 65 delegates attended. A report back was also sent to all AI Australia members.</p>
Board committee minutes	<p>The Board noted the latest minutes of the Governance Committee, Activism and Membership Committee and IT Roadmap Steering Group meetings.</p>
Farewell	<p>Directors acknowledged Gabe Kavanagh as it was her last board meeting. Since 2011, Gabe has attended 94 Board meetings, plus numerous Executive Committee meetings, Board Committee meetings, Branch AGMs, National AGMs, International Council Meetings, Regional Fora and Regional President meetings.</p> <p>She was Vice President for two years and President for four years and led the organisation through good and challenging times.</p> <p>Directors and staff thanked Gabe and acknowledged her passion, commitment, dedication, talent and wealth of organisational knowledge. She leaves behind an important and positive legacy.</p>
Next meeting	<p>The next Board meeting will be held on 21 June 2022.</p>