AI Australia National Board Report
for meeting held on 20 November 2021

Agenda item	Information / Report
Minutes of past meetings	The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2021 were confirmed.
Board Committee appointments	The Board confirmed the expiry dates of Board Director terms on Board Committees. It was also agreed to rotate each year among Directors who are Committee Chairs the role of conducting the National Director's performance review with the Board Chair.
Youth membership on Board Committees	Until now, there were only youth representative requirements on the Activism and Membership Committee (the person from the Youth Advisory Group) and on the International Issues Committee, where that person must be the Global Assembly Youth Delegate. It was agreed that it would be desirable to have suitably qualified or experienced young people (under 25) in the Governance and Audit & Risk committees. This will allow more young people to have a voice in our structures, provide a pathway to leadership positions and increase youth membership.
Vaccine Policy	Management presented a draft Vaccine Policy, which will apply to staff and visitors to Action Centres. The Policy will be further refined and rolled out to staff and activists when finalised.
Fundraising presentation	The 2020 Board evaluation had identified a need for Directors to increase their fundraising knowledge. In response to this, the Fundraising and Philanthropy Director was invited to present to the Board on fundraising, including AI Australia's fundraising channels and tactics.
Values and Behaviours charter, admission of members and under-18s on Activism Leadership Committees	The Board reviewed and approved the Values and Behaviours Charter for all Amnesty International Australia's activists, members and staff.

	Admission to and renewal of membership of AI Australia will include an agreement to abide by this Values and Behaviours Charter. The Board delegated the approval of membership to the National Director or their delegate, with a requirement that the National Director report to the Board if any application for membership is declined. It was also decided to allow members of AI Australia who are 16 and 17 years old to stand for positions on Activism Leadership Committees with the written consent of their parents or guardians, and with measures in place to ensure their safety.
2022 Plans and Budget	The Vision Implementation Plan for the next 18 months and the 2022 budget were approved.
Management reports	The National Director presented the monthly management update, which is structured around the three pillars of the Vision: **Advancing Human Rights**, **Building People Power** and **Growing Sustainably**. Key highlights included: **Advancing Human Rights** ● "Raise the Age": Concerted efforts are underway in a number of jurisdictions to advocate for the age of criminal responsibility to be raised to 14. These include meetings with politicians and mobilisation efforts with activists. ● The team worked in partnership with the documentary "Incarceration Nation" to organise a truth-telling webinar on some of the issues raised in the documentary. ● Individuals at Risk: Write for Rights (W4R) is a key focus of Q4 and actions are on track to exceed KPIs and 2020 performance: - Ali al-Nimr was released after a seven year long campaign by Amnesty. Originally sentenced to death, Amnesty generated more than 70,000 actions in support of al-Nimr's case. His sentence was commuted to ten years in February 2021 and he was released following ongoing pressure on the 27th October. - Melike and Ozgur, along with 17 other students were acquitted on October 19, 2021 after being acquitted of

charges resulting from taking part in a peaceful Pride march at their University in Turkey. More than 445,000 people from 43 countries took action throughout Write for Rights in 2021 to bring attention and support to their plight.

- Refugees/My New Neighbour: AI Australia has received $275,000 USD in tied funding for our work to advance community refugee sponsorship with a focus on the Afghanistan community, to be spent in 2022.
- Anti-Racism: More than 35 organisations from across the country have been led by AI Australia to agree a draft consensus position on principles for a Federal Government's anti-racism strategy. The coalition met with AHRC Race Commissioner Chin Tan, and Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice, June Oscar to bring their support behind the consensus position on November 9.
- Our campaign to challenge the discriminatory approach to English language tests for people from specific countries through the Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency (AHPRA) has gained momentum with the Government agency meeting with Amnesty and proposing adoption of our recommendations from the recent Senate inquiry.
- Resettlement from Afghanistan has stalled with limited opportunities for those with humanitarian visa grants to exit the country. We continue to advocate on this matter to the Minister and relevant stakeholders.

Building People Power
- Membership: AI Australia currently has 5277 members. New membership promotional material and collateral are being developed.
- An Activist Census was conducted in November, the results of which will help inform how we report to activists, groups and networks.
- AI Australia presented five sessions at the Global Skill Share including a session led by the Activism and Membership Committee. We also shared experiences of People Powered Activism and facilitated a session on Diversity and Inclusion.
- The Volunteering Program is going from strength to strength, with a number of volunteers and interns being recruited.

Growing sustainably
- Year to date income is slightly ahead of budget.

	- A number of Section Policies are currently being reviewed and updated. - Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing: - Anti-Racism training was provided to staff and volunteers. - The Diversity Council of Australia's Inclusion@Work Survey was sent to staff and volunteers. - Consultation had been held with staff and volunteers on the draft Participation Policy and Protocol. - A first draft of the Reconciliation Action Plan is being reviewed.
Human Rights Impact presentation: Write for Rights	Staff presented an update on Write for Rights. All external Board Committee members were invited to this segment. Write for Rights started 20 years ago when activists in Poland held a 24-hour letter writing marathon. Amnesty's global movement of ten million people in more than 170 countries comes together every year to take action and challenge injustice. From 2,326 letters in 2001 to 4.5 million letters, tweets, petition signatures and more in 2020, Write for Rights supporters have used the power of their words to unite behind a common purpose – backing people no matter where they are in the world. Success stories in 2020 included positive human rights outcomes for LGBTQI+ groups, Germain Rukuki in Burundi, Popi Qwabe and Bongeka Phungula in South Africa, Massima al-Sada in Saudi Arabia, Melike and Özgür in Turkey. The 2021 individual cases were presented and are also available on our website. Write for Rights present a true integration opportunity, not only within AI Australia but also across the movement.
Risk Register	The Board reviewed and noted the risk register.
Board Committee workplans for 2022	The Board reviewed and approved the 2022 workplans for the International Issues Committee and Activism and Membership Committee.
Board committee minutes	The Board noted the latest minutes of the International Issues Committee meeting, Audit and Risk Committee meeting,

	Activism and Membership Committee meeting and of the IT Roadmap Steering Committee meeting.
Next meeting	The next Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 December 2021.