

Amnesty International Australia (AIA) National Board Report for meetings held from August – December 2024

Agenda item / focus on	Information / Report
Overall strategic decisions and oversight	<p>The National Board endorsed the 2025 budget and five-year plan and noted that AIA had been in touch with the International Board requesting a waiver for 2024 and a graduated return to paying the assessment. The two areas of focus domestically were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing the non-structural elements of the capability review • Major donor stewardship <p>At its quarterly meetings, the Board reviewed the Compliance Register and Risk Register.</p>
Human Rights Act campaign presentation - August	<p>At the August Board meeting, campaign staff provided an update on the Human Rights Act campaign. The campaign was relaunched in 2022 as part of a Human Rights Act coalition, coordinated by the Human Rights Law Centre and bringing together 108 organisations. This work in partnership allows for expertise sharing and for a much more powerful position in advocating with the government.</p> <p>The campaign is very broad and captures many different communities with lived experience, including activists, who are impacted by human rights issues.</p> <p>The team has fostered relationships with Members of Parliament who are supportive of a human rights act, while remaining independent and impartial.</p> <p>While there is a lot of interest from human rights organisations and lawyers, it is important to garner support from the wider community to reduce the risk of future governments watering down the legislation.</p>
Regional Research presentation - November	<p>At the November Board meeting, the Acting Deputy Regional Director – Research, East, South-East Asia and the Pacific presented the research plans for the East Asia and South Pacific (EASAPRO) region. The research priorities for the region are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country priorities: China, Myanmar and Cambodia • Thematic priority: Climate Justice and Pacific displacement
Board committees	<p>Nihar Janjua was appointed to the Activism and Membership Committee (AMC) in August.</p> <p>At their November board meeting, the Board approved the Board Committees' workplans for 2025.</p>
Governance matters	<p>In November, the Board directed the Company Secretary to call an Extraordinary General Meeting for early February 2025.</p> <p>The Board also set the Census Date for 2025 as 31 January 2025 and decided to pause membership approvals between 14 February 2025 – 2 May 2025, as per the provisions in clause 11.1 (d) (v) of the Constitution. This is to ensure that all new memberships are processed in time for the 2025 nomination period, to work within the available infrastructure and</p>

	resources, and to make everyone's participation with the process as straightforward as possible.
Nomination and assessment committee	<p>The Board discussed the Nominations and Assessment Committee's (NAC) report on its work leading up to the 2024 AGM and noted the NAC's schedule for reviewing ways of improving Board Director nomination and assessment processes (the NAC Review).</p> <p>It tasked the Governance Committee with liaising with the NAC on drafting a consultation paper on improving Board Director nomination and assessment processes.</p> <p>The Board tasked the Nominations and Assessment Committee to work on the co-option of a First Nations Board Director as well as a Chair.</p>
Global Assembly update	<p>At the August meeting, the Chair provided a verbal update on his recent attendance at the Global Assembly (GA) held in Bangkok earlier in the month.</p> <p>The GA took place over a weekend early August and also entailed separate meetings for Section Directors, Chairs and Youth Delegates. 200 people attended. Other Australians were Ian Gibson, AI Membership Review Committee and Gavin Choong, Youth Collective.</p> <p>Significantly, it was the second time in AI's history that a GA was held in the Asia Pacific region.</p> <p>The meeting was dominated by the crisis around the International Board leadership. The global Statute allows for an investigation to be conducted, further to which a recommendation to dismiss or not dismiss the whole International Board would be made.</p> <p>A motion was passed that will allow for a more equitable redistribution of the assessment, whereby the percentage of the global income going to funded sections will increase from 4% to 12%, with the funds being held separately from the global International Secretariat funds.</p> <p>A decision was also made to commit to net zero by 2050. As part of sustainability measures, it was agreed to have a maximum of 3 people per delegation, with one of them being a Youth.</p> <p>There were conversations around language equity, with the three official languages of French, English and Spanish being seen as a remnant of colonialism.</p>
AI Australia activities	To read all about AI Australia's campaigns and activities, please refer to our new quarterly newsletter on website .
Link to governance information and Policies on the website	<p>Governance: How we're run - Amnesty International Australia</p> <p>Policies are available here.</p>