



Australian Association for
Infant Mental Health



WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR
INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Nov 9th, 2020 AAIMH Annual General Meeting:

AAIMH National Chairperson's Report: C Gally McKenzie

The 2019/20 Board: Chairperson/Board Director: C Gally McKenzie (WA) retired Oct 26th, incumbent Nicole Milburn (Vic). **Secretary:** Michelle Fryer (Qld). **Treasurer:** Mary Hood (SA). **Branch Reps/ Board Directors:** Ros Powrie (SA), Joe Coyne (Qld), Cath McPhee (Vic), Rubela Wilborn (WA), Kerry Ann Grant (NSW, Acting Rep), Alexandra Ball (ACT). Caroline Diamond shared with Naomi Thomas (Tas).

Retired members: Raylene Lewis (WA), Jenny Rankine (NSW), Anna Huber (ACT/acting rep)

Membership Secretary & Website Assistant: Annie Mullan

Website Coordinator: Samantha Finan.

Project Officer: Brendan Cook, position funded, 4 hours per week to December 2020 (for review).

IMHAW Sub Committee: Nicole Milburn (Chair) with Reps from WA, SA, Qld, NSW Branches. Remaining branches were unable to provide Reps

AAIMH Competency Guidelines National Sub Committee: Patricia O Rourke (Chair) with Reps from SA, NSW, Vic, WA & Qld Branches. Remaining branches were unable to provide Reps

Constitution Review & Governance Sub Committee; Joe Coyne (Chair), Nicole Milburn (Vic) & Gally McKenzie (WA)

(All Sub Committees are guided by Terms of Reference with clear timeframes).

Non-Board Position: WAIMH LOC Chair: Elisabeth Hoehn (Qld)

2020 has and continues to be a year of multiple challenges & extreme demands for all. Your solid commitment and multiple contributions not only to the ongoing work of the Board, but also to your Branches and the families and communities you serve has been immense. Your expertise, compassion, dedication and generosity in your work with infants and families combined with your commitment to AAIMH's mission and goals are greatly appreciated.

Similarly, Branch Presidents and Management Committee members have risen to multiple, and for some, enduring challenges. Your forbearance, generosity, adaptability and both personal & professional commitments are greatly appreciated by the Board.

The Board appreciates Elisabeth Hoehn's dedication, persistence, patience and determination with complex organizational matters with the WAIMH Congress. Elisabeth has contributed regular updates at AAIMH meetings & at other times throughout the last year.

Much appreciation to A/Prof Campbell Paul, WAIMH President, for including AAIMH in matters pertinent to the WAIMH Congress.

As an affiliate of WAIMH, our Association has an active commitment to transdisciplinary membership. Unlike WAIMH, we do not require Degree status for membership. We have student membership and also Organisational membership for a considerable time. This year we introduced Early Career Membership (2 years post first qualification) at a reduced fee.

All members are fully aware that the vast majority of IMH work, the promotion and prevention work, is undertaken at grass roots levels every day by Early Childhood and Care Workers, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Workers, Maternal and Child Health Nurses, Midwives, Neonatal ICU staff, a multitude of Allied Health Professionals and General Practitioners, the vast majority of whom are not trained or registered as therapists. Only a privileged and dedicated number of IMH workers in Australia have taken the opportunity to undertake Post Grad University based IMH training. AAIMH does not valorise or cling tightly to any particular or singular model of IMH practice. All disciplines who work with infants are welcomed, appreciated and needed. We all know that Infant Mental Health is Everyone's Business. As a Board, we remain open and curious, not unlike in our work with infants and families. AAIMH's members encompass and are supported with a broad school of theories, practices and models. Integrity and Reflective Practice are the goals for all who work in our field. Associations and organisations, like families have a multitude of beliefs, practices, traditions, conventions, dynamics and challenges to consider. We do not all have to have the same beliefs, the same practices. All IMH work benefits from openness, curiosity, respect, consideration and willingness.

AAIMH is moving from a 'Tradition of Convention' as it's historical structure to one of Governance & Clarity, such that for all involved, both on the Board and on Branch Committees, transparency, efficiency, effectiveness and commitment to equity of benefits to membership are committed to, alongside satisfaction and growth for all Board & Branch MC members.

As a commitment to supporting WAIMH & the World Congress, AAIMH did not hold a Speaker's Tour this year and will not hold a National Conference in 2021. Professional Development Events have been and will continue to be held for members and others via Zoom.

Following on from the work of the previous AAIMH Board & Committees over recent years, this Board has attended to and achieved the following outcomes in its recent term:

1. Improve Professional and Public Recognition

1.1 The AAIMH Trademark has been achieved and is now registered. Please note, the logo is not authorized for use by individual and organizational members.

1.2 Our new website www.aaimh.org.au has a new feature: Resources for Parents and Professionals, which will come into full use over the next months.

1.3 Together with State & Territory Branches, AIMH UK & Parent Infant Foundation UK, with support from WAIMH, a highly successful IMH Awareness Week Webinar was attended by 199 attendees; 113 from Australia, 34 from the UK, 12 from Japan, with 40 attendees from 21 other countries. Much appreciation to Nicole Milburn and the IMHAW sub-committee for their stellar work in difficult & extremely challenging circumstances. Appreciation too to Gus Fraser, Health Education and Learning Precinct IT/AV Support Officer, Royal Children's Hospital & University Melbourne for his expertise and containing capacity in this first multinational endeavour.

1.4 IMH AW related Media interviews were undertaken by Board members in Victoria & WA.

1.5 Australian Association for Infant Mental Health made a Submission to the Family Court Inquiry (Submission 848, 2020)

1.5 AAIMH Vic Branch made a Submission to the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System (2020).

1.7 AAIMH contributed to the Public Hearing, Australian Government's Productivity Commission (pp 97-103, 2020)

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- 1.8 AAIMH gave input to SNAICC & VACAA Child Safe Organisations: National Community Conversation - National Child Safe Principles
- 1.9 The AAIMH Members Google Group was launched by Dr Michelle Fryer, AAIMH Secretary, and is proving a valuable avenue for information & resource sharing.
- 1.10 A meeting was held with Catherine Maguire, AIMH Ireland & WAIMH Board member (the WAIMH Congress following Brisbane is scheduled for Dublin).

2. Educate members and other professionals who work with infants and their families

- 2.1 The Board is grateful to Branches that opened their webinars to all AAIMH members. This initiative was set in motion by Vic Branch.
- 2.2 Discussions were held with Emerging Minds with a view to co-delivering IMH related PD sessions.
- 2.3 Liaison and active participation with the WAIMH Local Organising Committee re: WAIMH Congress 2020, which, having been postponed, is now gazetted as WAIMH 2021, Brisbane (23-27 June 2021). AAIMH provided a consistent presence on the WAIMH LOC via online monthly meetings and multiple other communications.
- 2.4 AAIMH as the host affiliate for the WAIMH Congress prepared, planned and undertook multiple negotiations for the WAIMH Pre Congress Institute: *'Continuing Cultures; Stories that generate Social and Emotional, Spiritual and Cultural Wellbeing for Infants & Families'*. Broadening and enriching WAIMH's focus on understandings of strong, healthy children, families and communities is at the forefront of this Institute. This communication included: Prof Helen Milroy, Australia, Kathy Crouch, Australia, Lyn Doherty, Ohomairangi Trust NZ, Epenesa Olo, a Pacific Islander from New Zealand, Dr. Monica Hagali, Papua New Guinea, Dr. Myrielle Allen, Fiji, Dr Hisakao Watanabe, Japan, Prof Prabha Chandra, India, Dr Tjhin Wiguna, Indonesia, Dr Joyce Mok, Hong Kong, Norah Simon, Vanuatu, Dr Maree Foley, Switzerland, Prof Kai Von Klitzing, Germany and A/Prof Campbell Paul Australia. Communications also involved Dr Denise Guy, the Infant Mental Health Association Aotearoa New Zealand, Dr Nick Kowalenko, the Royal Australian & New Zealand College of Psychiatry.
- 2.5 AAIMH undertook planning and preparation for the WAIMH Affiliate Pre-Congress Institute 'Running an Infant Mental Health Organisation: Models of Working'
This involved communications with IMH Associations in South Africa, Argentina, Estonia, Canada and Michigan USA.
- 2.6 AAIMH has made a commitment to facilitating scholarships for WAIMH 2021. AAIMH has communicated with a number of Indigenous Key Stakeholders and Practitioners this year.

3. Advocate in the interests of Infant Mental Health

- 3.1 Position Paper reviews: "Early Childhood Education and Care" now updated and available on the website. The "Controlled Crying" paper review will soon be completed. A new position paper 'Permanency Planning' is in development.
- 3.2 Active ongoing liaison with the Marce Association, Emerging Minds, RANZCP, IMHAANZ, AIMH UK, PIP UK and SNAICC (of which AAIMH is now an associate member).

4. Develop Professional Competencies, Standards and Recognition

- 4.1 The Board accepted the recommendations from the AAIMH Competency Guidelines National Sub Committee and is developing the next steps for making the CG's accessible & available. With appreciation to the National Sub Committee for fulfilling its brief within the agreed timeframe.

5. Provide Information and Services to Members

5.1 The AAIMH members Google Group as above

5.2 A Social Media Sub Committee has been formed

5.3 Much appreciation to Vic Branch for spearheading the development of the Resources for Families Affected by Fires and to other members & organisations for their contributions (publicly available on website)

5.4 Resources for Practitioners and Families affected by COVID-19 has had many contributors for which we are very grateful (publicly available on website)

5.5 Many individual requests for information were responded to by Michelle Fryer & others over the year

6. Enhance Good Governance & Grow the Membership

6.1 The Tasmanian Branch is growing and has a committee of four.

6.2 NT colleagues, led by Jenny Ward, together with the Board are actively working on the creation of a NT Branch

6.3 AAIMH Board facilitated a series of meetings with Branch Presidents, Treasurers & Secretaries throughout the year. Significant challenges were experienced in a number of Branches. This has led to AAIMH's commitment to a Governance Review. Legal advice was sought on a number of matters. From Corrs Chambers Westgarth:

"The Branch Management Committees of each state are essentially sub-committees established by the national AAIMH organisation to manage various State level functions. Each Branch Committee exercises powers delegated to it by the directors of the national AAIMH organisation under the AAIMH Constitution (section 79 of the Constitution). It is the national AAIMH directors that have the legal management responsibilities of AAIMH, not the Branch Committee members. As such, the Branch Committee members are not subject to the same legal standards under the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) as the national AAIMH directors.

For reference we note that the Branch Committee's general responsibilities are contained in AAIMH's Constitution. The key responsibilities include:

- 1. approving or rejecting membership applications (section 13);*
- 2. sourcing additional company funds outside of member's annual subscription fees, donations, conferences, training events and grants (section 73.1); and*
- 3. managing funds through the branch's bank account(s) (sections 74.1, 78.1 and 78.2).*

In exercising these responsibilities, particularly in managing funds, the Branch Committee members are still under a general obligation to act in accordance with the law (e.g. you cannot commit criminal acts such as fraud etc.)".

6.4 Communications with ASIC & ACNC are ongoing as required.

6.5 We thank & appreciate Nick Foster & Jack Campion, Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Perth, for their pro bono legal advice & ongoing commitment to AAIMH.

6.6 AAIMH facilitated WAIMH Board's access to Corrs Chambers Westgarth.

6.7 AAIMH funded A/Prof Campbell Paul's return air fare to the December WAIMH Board meeting in Finland.

6.8 A reminder to all members, use of the AAIMH logo on your websites, stationery etc. is not permitted. Please note AAIMH membership is not an endorsement system.

6.9 Deductible Gift Recipient Status achieved & now on the Webpage. Please encourage donations. Funds allocated to scholarships & PD events for members.

- 6.10 A Membership Survey (via Survey Monkey) is currently underway, seeking input into AAIMH's governance, goals, directions and priorities. Thank you to members who have contributed & we welcome input from those who have not as yet had a chance to contribute. All input is much valued
- 6.11 Annual Planning Day: The Board met for one day in Sydney in Feb 2020, AAIMH covered all members' travel costs, accommodation for four members (all others travel there & home on the day), meals, meeting room hire, taxis, incidentals.
- 6.12 Video online facility: Zoom account expanded and upgraded now has capacity for 500 attendees, available to all Branch MCs.
- 6.13 Gift vouchers (\$50) are presented to retiring Board members as a mark of appreciation for their contributions.

Similar to last year, Board members did not receive fees or funding of any kind. All time and expertise was given pro bono whilst utilizing own resources, i.e. computers & phones.

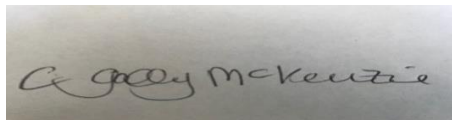
Our Association's capacity & successes are supported by the pro bono work of Board, Branch MC's & many members throughout the country, coupled with the part time Project Officer position (0.1fte).

AAIMH Membership Numbers Overall to date: 396

ACT: 15 NSW: 51 Qld: 44

SA: 56 Tas:12 Vic:131

WA: 87



C Gally McKenzie. MSocSc (Couns), Grad Dip MH Sc (Infant & Parent Mental Health), B Nurs, Midwife, Cert MH, IMH-E®, Infant Mental Health Mentor.

Outgoing AAIMH Chairperson

06.11.2020

Australian Association for Infant Mental Health Limited.

126A Payneham Road, Stepney. SA 5069 Australia

ABN 88 625 753 522 | ACN 625 753 522

