



Australian Association for
Infant Mental Health

President's Report

Australian Association for Infant Mental Health

AGM 20th November 2018

via teleconference

It has been a pleasure to hold this position over the last twelve months, and to work with such a competent and supportive group of colleagues on the National Board. This year has been one of both consolidation and further development.

At the last AGM the decision was made that AAIMHI would become a Company Limited by Guarantee. Aided by our pro bono lawyers, from Corrs, Chambers, Westgarth in Perth our National Secretary, Annie Mullan, has done an enormous piece of work to put this in place. At the same time Annie has been managing the website and the membership secretary functions. Her quiet work in the background has underpinned all the progress we have made this year.

Likewise, Mary Hood, our National Treasurer, has managed the changes necessary with our bank accounts and has instigated processes to ensure transparency and accountability in all our financial transactions.

Beulah Warren, from NSW Branch, led the other large piece of work undertaken this year. Beulah chaired the subcommittee charged by the National Committee with starting the decision-making processes about whether AAIMHI would adopt a competency framework. The subcommittee considered the question: *Does adopting a competency framework assist in progressing or furthering the aims and objectives of the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health?* The conclusions reached by this group of representatives from each State/Territory Branch is that they consider that adopting a Competency Framework is consistent with progressing or furthering the aims and objectives of the Australian Association for Infant Mental Health. They have recommended a further piece of work to progress this recommendation.

We were fortunate to have Dr Nancy Suchman from the USA do a National Tour this year. Thank you to Sally Watson for coordinating this, and to the QLD, NSW and South Australian Branches for hosting the training. The national tour offers our members solid professional development opportunities in the year when we don't have a conference.

I would like to thank the National Committee for the opportunity to represent the national association at the 16th WAIMH Congress in Rome in May. This was my fifth world Congress, but the first one where I've felt such a connection with the global infant mental

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health world. I was proud to represent such a robust and thoughtful affiliate in our meetings with other delegates. As President of the Australian Affiliate I attended the WAIMH Affiliate Council Administrative Meeting where the main topic of conversation was about the refugee and asylum seeker crisis in many parts of the world. The discussion was led by the Turkish and Greek Affiliate representatives and covered the issues of how WAIMH can both advocate for and respond to the needs of infants and their families who are requesting refuge from the conflicts occurring all over the world. Needless to say, the stories were harrowing, both in this meeting and in the presentations at the conference itself.

Elisabeth Hoehn, Chair of the Local Organising Committee for the 17th WAIMH Congress to be held in Brisbane in 2020, organised a promotional stall at the Rome Congress to build interest in delegates to come to Australia for WAIMH 2020. Clip on koalas and promotional postcards left Rome to spread the word and there was considerable interest. Each State/Territory Branch has a representative on the Local Organising Committee for WAIMH 2020, so no doubt the next eighteen months will be a busy one as we prepare to welcome the world to Australia.

I would once again like to thank the National Board for their professionalism, hard work and commitment to the interests of infants.

I wish the new President and National Board the very best as they progress this work.

Libby Morton
President, AAIMHI