

<b>Information Session Report YM23</b>	
<b>Name of Event:</b>	<b>QSA Information Session</b>
<b>Date/Time:</b>	8 June 2023 at 7.30pm AEST
<b>Clerk/Convenor/Presenter:</b>	Pia Reiersen
<b>Note taker:</b>	
<b>Report (500 word maximum, please)</b>	<p>Present: Fleur Bayley, Ai-Leen Quah, Duncan Frewin, Susan Rockcliff, Therese Douglas, Rae Litting and David Swain, Christine Sargeant, Mary Pollard, Rose Griffith, Aletia Dundas, Marilyn Hillery, Lesli Grant, Wies Schuiringa, Bruce Henry, Shobha Varkey, Niraj Shah, Dan Ong, Joanna (WARM), Brydget Barker-Hudson, Mary Jane Hogan, Garry Duncan (last section)</p> <p>The Introduction mentioned QSA's focus on locally-led development (localisation). QSA staff then introduced themselves and described their roles.</p> <p>Pia summarised the projects QSA is currently supporting in Uganda, Cambodia, India, Bangladesh, The Philippines and Australia. She expressed QSA's gratitude for Quaker support, and in particular the Quaker Shop in Adelaide and the Friends' School in Hobart. Pia also expressed QSA's appreciation of the many years of service of Jackie Perkins, John Dundas and Alis Middleton (Alis may in fact be returning). She also mentioned the change of location of the QSA office in the near future.</p> <p>As an example of how QSA engages in equality, Fleur Bayley then described a pilot project undertaken with the local partner KCD in Cambodia. The project was designed to promoting women's leadership in the community, through forum theatre, building capabilities, and engaging both women and men for gender equality and peace building. The goal is to have sustainable projects not dependent on QSA or KCD. Fleur described the workshops held in early 2023 and the outcomes, and the learning from the pilot has now been fully integrated in a three-year project. Fleur concluded by saying this is an amazing project with amazing possibilities.</p> <p>Questions asked of Fleur included: how were the women participants selected? (self-selected); were men included at any stage? (yes; included because all the women's focus was on the help this would provide for their families; the men always knew this activity was for the betterment of the families).</p>

Pia described three aspects of QSA's activity in Engagement and Service: the need to coordinate more sharing of information from partners; the need to maintain contacts with Friends; and the need to maintain contacts with other organisations.

The zoom session then divided into breakout groups, to discuss how Friends can engage with and share resources with QSA, and how QSA can be a place for interaction with Quakers in the wider world.

Some of the ideas from the breakout groups included:

- Could we turn Fleur's presentation into a short video for the QSA website?
- Whatever QSA staff produce explaining what they do should be used many times in many forums.
- Participants in QSA projects could produce this material as well (some are already acquiring these skills).
- AVP materials could be included in QSA projects (this will be put on the agenda for the next QSA Board meeting).
- It is clear that most people do want to hear more about specific projects.
- We could make better use of the QSA website.
- It would be good to meet face-to-face occasionally now that Covid has lessened.
- It is important to take this information back to Local Meetings.
- It would be good to have more direct material from project partners (e.g., an interview with Josephine from St Jude's Family Project, Uganda).

The meeting closed with silence.