

**RM RESPONSES TO DIA23 REPORT PART B ITEMS:  
QSA & AYM Relationship Working Group Report  
as of 11.5.23**

**CRQ:**

We note that the Document in Advance is proposed by two Friends (David Purnell and Duncan Frewin) but hear that the recommendations have been developed with and supported by the two Working Group members from the QSA Management Committee.

1. We acknowledge that these recommendations are intended to provide a flexible supportive framework for positive relationships between Quakers Australia and Quaker Service Australia into the future.
2. We encourage regular (e.g., twice yearly) QSA information sessions for Australian Quakers.
3. We acknowledge that the proposed recommendations will require agreement by QSA and some may also require legal advice.
4. We welcome the opportunity to explore the implications of the recommendations in more detail at the dedicated Preparatory session scheduled for 7.30pm on Friday 26 May 2023 and ask that relevant legal advice be sought prior to that session.

**NSWRM:**

We are pleased to know that Rae Litting was on the working group on this matter. The NSWRM supports the proposed changes:

1. That, to enhance the effectiveness of the oversight of QSA policies and operations, the membership of the QSA Management Committee be increased from seven to nine (including office bearers)
2. That, instead of being hosted by a Regional Meeting (at present NSW), QSA be hosted by Australia Yearly Meeting. In that situation, the members would be chosen by the Nominations Committee of AYM in consultation with the present Management Committee of QSA and other stakeholders, and members would be selected from anywhere in Australia. The appointments to the Management Committee would then be made by Standing Committee (after feedback from Regional Meetings) and confirmed at the next gathering of AYM.
3. That the current Management Committee and officers of QSA advise the AYM Nominations Committee of the skills and knowledge needed for the effective oversight of QSA as vacancies occur, to assist in the selection of names for appointment.
4. That the Linkages Committee be discontinued, and replaced by regular opportunities for Quakers to interact with QSA through webinars offered by QSA for sharing of information and ideas. In addition to these webinars offered by QSA, any Regional Meeting could ask QSA for a meeting of this kind, and QSA would also use Yearly Meeting gatherings, newsletters and other ongoing communication methods to keep Quakers informed and receive feedback.
5. That appropriate legal advice be sought by AYM and QSA about the implications of these changes for QSA's standing as a company, so that AYM and QSA can have the necessary background to make a decision on changes in the governance arrangements as proposed. (Note – there may be some confusion caused by naming the oversight body 'the Management Committee' rather than 'The Board', and this point might be clarified by legal advice about the requirements expected of a company).

We note that QSA will need to have a constitutional change if no longer under the care of NSWRM.

**QRM:**

We agree with the 5 proposed main points –

- increase management committee
- to be hosted by AYM and not NSWRM
- provide advice of skills etc needed for appointments made
- linkages group be discontinued
- check legal advice for changes made

**SANTRM:**

1. We remain concerned about the relationship of QSA to Regional Meetings, and are aware of the difficulties of liaison if QSA is under the care of one Regional Meeting. However, there are problems with communication and close awareness of the needs of QSA if the Management committee is at AYM level. There are also legal concerns.
2. We suggest that the present arrangements remain for the Management Committee to be under the care of a Regional Meeting while Friends seek further clearness, including consideration of the possibility of an extension of the Management Committee to ensure communication between the Management Committee, Regional Meetings and Australia Yearly Meeting

**TRM:**

1. This recommendation is supported
2. TRM agreed, however we suggest that recommendation 2 include Yearly Meeting itself along with Standing Committee as mechanisms for appointments.
3. TRM supports this recommendation
4. TRM supports this recommendation
5. TRM agreed, a company limited by guarantee.

**VRM:**

Points 1 – 5. Agreed

**WARM:**

WARM Friends accept these proposed changes in the interest of improving and growing the relationship between AYM and QSA Limited.