

RM RESPONSES TO DIA23 REPORT WITH PART B ITEMS:
Quaker World Connections Committee Report
as of 11.5.23

CRQ:

We feel that overseas air travel poses a difficult issue in relation to our response to the climate emergency. We hear the value of face-to-face meetings but are all encouraged to consider:

- alternative forms of (lower carbon) means of surface-travel;
- to combine activities when travelling; and
- to deeply discern all non-essential travel.

We are reminded of the notices during the Second World War *'Is your journey really necessary?'*

- We support less frequent AWPS international visitors.
- We question the relevance of an invitation to physically attend an on-line Yearly Meeting gathering.
- We have not found unity as a Regional Meeting on the extent of reduction in travel.
- We hope that the Preparatory Session may provide an opportunity to develop some guidance for discernment of criticality/essentiality of travel for overseas visitors.



NSWRM:

1. We hope AWPS visitors can attend (YM) by Zoom.
2. This (that AYM Nominations Committee to discern the name of a Friend to represent Australia Yearly Meeting at this South Africa gathering) is a matter for the AYM Nominations committee.

QRM:

1. We note improved opportunities for meeting online and rising air travel costs over the past three years. However, we support the in-person attendance of a representative from Asia Pacific region at Australia Yearly Meeting 2023 because of the sense of community that this offers for the attendee.
2. Duncan Frewin will contact AYM Nominations Committee to ask that Abel Siboniyo attends the World Quaker Gathering in South Africa in August 2024. Abel notes that attendance at this gathering would also offer him the opportunity to visit Friends and refugees in Kenya and Uganda.

SANTRM:

1. We believe that personal interactions and relationships formed between the AWP visitor and Friends throughout Australia are of significant value and strengthen ties around AWPS. We believe that an annual visit is reasonable and a good use of resources. However, we are mindful of the costs to the environment and to AYM. We support travel alternatives to air where practical.
2. We see great value to both AYM and the host Meeting in the participation of a Friend to represent AYM at the South African gathering in August 2024. We recognise that strong, lasting connections are made at face-to-face meetings. We recommend that Nominations Committee bring forward at least one nomination for this role. If there is a cost for zoom participation, we hope that AWPS will be able to support more Friends to take part.

TRM:

1. TRM feels that visits are valuable, but less frequently makes sense. A mix of in-person visits and webinars would be appealing. We suggest furthermore that visits at times other than Yearly Meeting would facilitate better focus and support for the visitor.
2. TRM supports someone to represent AYM at the South African gathering.

VRM:

1. Point 1. Friends suggest that an AWP section visitor be invited in the year when the Backhouse Lecturer is not from overseas.
2. Point 2. Agreed (Bruce Henry explained that funds have been set aside for this).

WARM:

1. We note the difficulties, given the current ecological crisis, but WARM Friends see the value in human connection, in meeting, worshipping, eating and conversing with a visitor from the Asia West Pacific Quaker community in person.
2. WARM Friends support asking AYM Nominations Committee to discern the name of a Friend to Represent Australia Yearly Meeting at this South Africa gathering.