

RM RESPONSES TO DIA20

Archivist's Report PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS

All archives should be stored in safe dry conditions.

1. Local Meeting archives should be stored off-site, to decrease the risk of damage by fire, flood, vandalism, theft.
2. An electronic copy should be submitted with the hard-copy archive. The LM archivist must re-copy material to more modern electronic storage as required.
3. Where relevant, standard archive index categories used for Regional Meeting archives should be used (eg. 'Local Meeting', 'Meeting House').

Access to Local Meeting archives may be requested by any member or attender of the meeting, with the exception of confidential archives. A request to view a specific section from a confidential archive record should be approved by the Ministry and Care Committee in writing.

Current documents may be held by the Clerk or relevant committee while in use, after which they should be given to the archivist for review for destruction or retention. This check of current documents by committees and office-bearers should be done annually.

CRM	<p>This report has caused us to consider our practices, including what we retain and what is adequate fireproofing.</p> <p>We suggest that it would be helpful if there could be guidance for Local Meetings and Regional Meetings about which minutes and records should be retained, how long and in what form. This is particularly relevant in the light of our involvement in the National Redress Scheme, and we note that legally mandated materials include records of children attending Quaker meetings and events.</p> <p>We agree to extend an invitation to Alan Clayton to meet with us to explore these matters further.</p> <p>We encourage the development of archiving policies and guidelines which would assist all Regional Meetings, perhaps through consultation between the Yearly Meeting archivist and Regional Meeting archivists.</p>
NSWRM	<p>RMs were requested to consider the AYM Archivist's draft Statement for YM19. NSWRM did so at an archives workshop on 18.5.19. (Report below).</p> <p>Overall, we found this Statement an impressive and helpful document, and we commend the AYM Archivist.</p> <p>We felt the Statement would have been more useful if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It had clearly distinguished the different levels of the organisation (AYM, RM, local), and the records created at the different levels. • Policy statements (e.g. 'Where such documents are transferred to a permanent archive this should be accompanied by a clearly articulated and very lengthy access embargo period') had been clearly separated from procedural statements (e.g. 'Photographs should be stored in archival-quality conditions such as in mylar sleeves or archival standard albums'). • It had dealt with electronic records, such as the AYM website. <p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>We ask the AYM Archivist to develop a Policy and Procedure Statement, with an attached Retention, Disposal and Storage Schedule (how long each category of record is kept, when it is discarded (if ever), where it is stored, and if in secondary storage, after how long in local storage it is transferred there).</p> <p>This Schedule should list all records which are archived by AYM and its committees, including electronic records such as the AYM website. We believe that such a Policy and Procedure Statement, with its attached Retention, Disposal and Storage Schedule, would greatly assist RM archivists to develop similar guiding documents.</p> <p>We recognise that developing this Policy and Procedure, with Retention, Disposal and Storage Schedule, will require consultation with a wide variety of stakeholders. We hope this will be available by YM20.</p>

	<p>We suggest the AYM Archivist and other RM archivists could discuss the benefits or otherwise of storing all Australian Quaker archives centrally, whether at the National Library or elsewhere.</p> <p>There is an error in that the Statement designates the National Archives of Australia as AYM's secondary storage, but probably the National Library of Australia is the repository which is meant.</p> <p>We are aware that Saadia Thomson of QRM, who is a professional archivist, has prepared a retention and disposal schedule with guidelines which especially deal with confidential archives. We ask the YM Archivist to consider these in preparing YM documents.</p>
QRM	Queensland Regional Meeting Archivist provided the policy and retention schedule for our records to the AYM Secretary on 20 January.
SANTRM	<p>SANTRM supports these recommendations.</p> <p>We will bring together a group to ensure that our records meet with these standards.</p> <p>We ask Charles Stevenson to convene the Archival Committee.</p>
TRM	<p>We are in support of the recommendations contained in the report.</p> <p>We accept that these recommendations will require some effort and learning by members of TRM to bring us up to the required standard.</p>
VRM	<p>Alan Clayton advises of two changes to the Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Under Records Management – first dot point – Records for permanent retention, add at the end of this dot point: “As well, records indicating those attending Quaker held or auspiced events, as well as the records of the Child Protection committees and contact Friends.” b. The two references to the Australian National Archives should be to the National Library of Australia. <p>Victoria Regional Meeting accepts the recommendations above, noting the two additional changes, above, from Alan Clayton.</p> <p>We will discuss the implications for Victorian records at a later date.</p>
WARM	<p>We note the report and accept the recommendations.</p> <p>WARM already complies with most of the recommendations and will refine its practices accordingly. We ask the Archivist to consider suggesting a standardised format for electronic records.</p>
Children & Junior Young Friends Committee and Children & JYF Coordinators' Report PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS	
<p>1) We request that AYM provides feedback on the value (or not!) of the following potential CJYF Coordinator offerings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Australia wide - All age meetings for worship • Virtual Australia wide - Children's meetings for worship with stories and activities • Virtual Australia wide - JYF meetings for worship and worship sharing 	
CRM	1) The JYF Coordinators like the idea of a plan for Australia-wide guidelines to foster connections among JYFs.
NSWRM	1) We support these initiatives. We heard about the value of the recent Easter camp. We also note the value of face-to-face gatherings.
QRM	1) We prefer face to face children's meeting to continue rather than be involved with a trial of these different formats of on-line children's meetings, i.e. all-age Meetings for Worship, and Meetings for Worship with stories and activities. As QRM has no JYFs we have no comment concerning on-line JYF meetings for worship and worship sharing.
SANTRM	1) SANTRM supports the suggested national Zoom meetings, to bring together children and young people.
TRM	1) We welcome the suggestion for virtual meetings although we hope that JYF specific meetings will not deter JYFs from joining the regular meetings, or make them feel unwelcome in them.
VRM	1) We see potential in all of these meetings and ask that they be tried – so as to better link people of the same age across Australia.
WARM	1) We encourage the coordinators to trial the three different formats of virtual meetings.

2) We request that AYM provides direction regarding the format and timing of Coordinator newsletters. Are Regional Meetings happy with the current electronic format, and if not, what is their preferred format?	
CRM	2) We would welcome the electronic newsletters to be sent to Regional Meetings, noting that in the past we did receive them.
NSWRM	2) NSW Regional Meeting has not received these newsletters. We would like these newsletters to be more widely distributed to the RM Clerks, CP Contact Friends, QSA, NSW RM newsletter as well as for e-bulletins. We will advise the Coordinators of these email addresses.
QRM	2) We are not familiar with the current electronic newsletters from the coordinators.
SANTRM	---
TRM	2) We find the current offerings of newsletters useful but hope that the frequency of these does not place an unsustainable demand on the coordinators.
VRM	2) VRM is happy with the electronic format. We are unclear about who receives the newsletter. We recommend that the newsletter comes out in the week before Regional Meetings are due to meet, so that excerpts could be included in RM newsletters.
WARM	2) We welcome continuation of the current electronic Newsletters.
3) We ask AYM to determine whether Australia-wide guidelines would be helpful and provide direction accordingly. We have been asked by one Regional Meeting to provide guidelines for its Children and JYF coordinators.	
CRM	3) The Children's Committee does not see Australia-wide guidelines as a priority but the sharing of creative approaches, including for all age meetings is welcome.
NSWRM	3) We do not understand what guidelines this one RM is looking for. NSWRM does not have any such guidelines. We understand that there was a job description for the AYM Children's and JYF worker as well as other more extensive guidelines.
QRM	3) We welcome any assistance the coordinators and committee can provide us in relation to organising meetings for children and JYFs.
SANTRM	--
TRM	3) We would be interested in having guidelines as suggested.
VRM	3) VRM is strongly in favour of this recommendation, and we ask that Child Protection Contact Friends be included in this process.
WARM	3) We support the production of Australia-wide guidelines for RM coordinators.
Earthcare Committee PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS	
1) that all Quaker Committees, Groups and Meetings add a simple reflective earth-caring moment (in silence or perhaps with a word/poem/quote) to the start of each gathering session they may have, however they meet and wherever they are	
CRM	1) We note that in most Acknowledgements of Country at the beginning of Committee and other Meetings, we refer to the care that First Nations peoples have given the lands on which we meet. We would wish to maintain the emphasis on respecting the wonderful custodianship of First Nations Peoples. Rather than a statement at the beginning of each meeting, we commit to considering the impact on climate change and other earthcare issues of each of our decisions in our committees and meetings.
NSWRM	1) We support recommendation 1, but suggest the wording should read '... are encouraged, as they feel led, to add a simple reflective ...'
QRM	1) The suggestion for reflecting on our connection to the earth at regional meetings is not a matter for decision by Yearly Meeting. We encourage committees to use their contacts or correspondents to pass these suggestions to regional meetings directly. We support the suggestion and will consider it at a future meeting. We are reminded that we have already committed to reflect on our connection to earth through the Earthcare Statement. SANTRM supports the earthcare testimony, and notes that SANTRM financially supported Extinction Rebellion's environmental activism in October last year. SANTRM does not support the inclusion of Earthcare moments during our meetings for worship, honouring our commitment to being unprogrammed Friends and our tradition of silent worship.
SANTRM	1) We are not in agreement about the recommendation to add a simple reflective earth-caring moment (in silence or perhaps with a word/poem/quote) to the start of every gathering session, as this seems formulaic. We hope however that a reflection may occur when spirit-led.

TRM VRM WARM	<p>1) We hope this will be done, where appropriate.</p> <p>1) We support encouraging all Quaker gatherings to include an earth-caring moment at the start of all meetings.</p>
<p>2) that an audit of earthcare activities in each RM be part of their yearly Report, as has been in previous years, with the additional record of any climate change mitigating practices, shortcuts or 'hacks'/tips they can offer from their experience to the wider Quaker community.</p>	
CRM NSWRM QRM SANTRM TRM VRM WARM	<p>2) We are aware that Regional Meetings were asked to report on Earthcare activities at YM2020. We included details of earthcare action and the participation of CRM members in earthcare activities in our report to YM. We know we need to do more and could undertake an audit of earthcare activities</p> <p>2) We support this recommendation. We suggest the annual report should be framed as 'How our Earthcare Testimony has thrived in the past year.'</p> <p>2) The committee suggests each RM include an earthcare audit in its annual report. We note this suggestion.</p> <p>2) no response</p> <p>2) We support the suggestion of including an audit of earthcare activities in each RM Yearly Report.</p> <p>2) We agree.</p> <p>2) We support a list (rather than an audit) of earthcare activities being included RM yearly reports to AYM.</p>
<p>3) that RMs consider hosting the Earthcare Committee beginning at YM 2021.</p>	
CRM NSWRM QRM SANTRM TRM VRM WARM	<p>3) We commit our meeting to finding a way to engage younger friends in climate change and earthcare issues, as it is young people who will be taking this forward. We need a generational change in thinking and decision making on this issue. We could start with involving the younger people in our meeting, perhaps holding a special event or events to do this. We are reminded that Junior Young Friends were particularly concerned with the Earthcare Sessions at the previous two Yearly Meetings, and have high awareness of these issues. These processes may help us discern whether we could offer to take on the Earthcare Committee, or whether some other way could be found within AYM to involve the participation, energy and knowledge of young people.</p> <p>A meeting on 29 May was held to consider further our response to the Earthcare Report and to the Earthcare Epistle from YM2019. We agreed that notes from the meeting on 29 May, to be drafted by David Shorthouse, could be sent to the Earthcare Committee as suggestions which could be brought to an Earthcare Committee Preparatory Session.</p> <p>3) We note this.</p> <p>3) The committee wishes to finish its work next year. We suggest that a committee that wishes to pass on its work should contact the Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee to start the search. We do not feel ready to host this committee ourselves.</p> <p>No response</p> <p>3) We feel we are not yet ready to take on the responsibilities of the AYM Earthcare Committee in 2021 as our local group is just starting.</p> <p>3) No response.</p> <p>n/a</p>

Friends Peace Teams – Asia West Pacific Report PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS

We ask Australian Yearly Meeting to continue with the annual \$1,000 grant as well as the travel subsidy of \$1,000.

CRM	Having heard this, we endorse the recommendation that AYM continue the annual \$1,000 grant, and the \$1,000 travel subsidy
NSWRM	We support this recommendation.
QRM	We note that the request for \$1000 for Friends Peace Teams has been in previous Yearly Meeting budgets as well as \$1000 to assist with travel, and we expect it to be included in this year’s budget.
SANTRM	We note that Friends Peace Teams hope that Regional Meetings will include a line for Friends Peace Teams in their schedule of contributions. SANTRM supports the annual ongoing grants totalling \$2,000 to Friends Peace Teams.
TRM	We are in agreement.
VRM	We agree.
WARM	We support the funding recommendations.

Handbook Revision Committee: PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS

Four suggested changes to the Handbook are in Appendix 1 for the discernment of YM2020.

1) Minute from YM19: Friends asked that the Handbook reflect our tradition of allowing for a Friend not in agreement with a decision to stand aside, which can then allow for a decision that the meeting is in unity on, to be accepted, and also that the Handbook reflect the possibility that a Friend may have a stop in their mind which can result in a matter being deferred for later discernment. The Handbook Revision Committee (HRC) is asked to revise the wording presented to YM2019 to make this clear and present another draft of this section to YM2020.

CRM	1) We agree to all the changes presented by the Handbook Revision Committee.
NSWRM	1) We note that the 7th edition of our Handbook, which was approved at YM19, is still not accessible to Friends. We ask that in future approved amendments to the Handbook should be accessible on our website by 6 weeks latest after their approval. Standing aside: We are in unity with the Handbook Revision Committee’s proposed changes.
QRM	1) We agree to this proposed change to the wording of the Handbook.
SANTRM	1) SANTRM Friends are supportive of the change proposed by the Handbook Revision Committee to the Chapter 1 entry on Standing Aside.
TRM	1) We accept these changes and thank the Committee for their work.
VRM	1) VRM sees a continuing difficulty in the section in Part c) about naming a Friend who is not in unity. To the clause: “record that Friend xy wished to stand aside from the minute”, we suggest adding the wording “if they so desire”.
WARM	1) We accept the revised wording for the section on Standing aside with the suggested amendments as shown below: <i>When a Friend has a “stop in their mind”</i> This expression refers to the infrequent times that the Clerk when it is discerns discerned that the meeting is very close to unity on an action, but a single Friend is unable to unite with the minute. When this occurs, it is important that the Friend be given (add: adequate) opportunity to be carefully heard in explaining their reasons for doubt. Other Friends present may then wish to speak. Once this has happened the outcome could be (add: will be one of the following three options) : A) Friends realise that further consideration is required either then or at a subsequent meeting; or B) The out of unity Friend has been heard and has heard responses which enable them to unite with the minute; or very rarely C) The Friend still cannot unite with the minute although all others present are in unity with it. In this case, the Clerk may say that that this is the way forward which Friends want; and offer the dissenting Friend the opportunity to ‘stand aside’ from the minute, which would either record that there was general unity but that a single Friend could not unite with the minute, or record that Friend xy wished to stand aside from the minute. This should only happen very rarely, as unity is a vital aspect of Quaker process, and frequent use of this would undermine the Meeting’s confidence in the process and possibly with the Clerk.

2) Chapter 2, 2.5.2. From Documents in Retrospect YM 2019: It is recommended that the HRC consult with RM finance committees on the wording of this section and prepare a draft rewording for YM2020, and in the meantime that this sentence be removed from the Handbook. The sentence is: "The Regional Meeting should be aware of all accounts and investments held within the Regional Meeting."

CRM	2) We agree to all the changes presented by the Handbook Revision Committee.
NSWRM	2) RM accounts and investments: We would like to add to the proposed sentence, 'for reasons of transparency or as legally required'. We note that incorporations law is state-based. We are otherwise in unity with this proposed change.
QRM	No response.
SANTRM	No response.
TRM	We accept these changes and thank the Committee for their work.
VRM	2) VRM does not agree with the revised wording and we strongly support the original statement. We seek clarification for why this has been reviewed. Incorporated RMs have a legal responsibility to be aware of all accounts and investments.
WARM	2) No response.

3) RMs were asked to respond to the question about the use of their Meeting House(s) for weddings.

CRM	3) Weddings: We agree with the current wording accepted at YM19 about non-Quakers seeking permission to be married in the manner of Friends in Meeting houses. We note that the occasions when the Meeting Houses are not used is not covered by this entry. We draw the HRC's attention to this.
NSWRM	3) Use of meeting houses for weddings: We are in unity with the Handbook Revision Committee's proposed changes.
QRM	3) We confirm QRM's practice that this request would go to the Clerk and the decision is discerned by the Meeting for Worship for Business. We would likely decline a request from such a couple to say "in the manner of Friends" or similar words unless it was conducted under the auspices of the regional meeting.
SANTRM	3) SANTRM believes that those applying to marry under the care of the Meeting need to understand and be supportive of Quaker beliefs and values. In practice this is best considered on an individual basis by the Regional Meeting concerned. We support the current phrasing. In the case of more urgent requests, current SANTRM practice is that such decisions can be made by a group comprised of the local meeting clerks and the celebrant, when necessary." We accept these changes and thank the Committee for their work.
TRM	3) We agree.
VRM	3) We accept the Handbook entry with the minor addition as below:
WARM	<u>Use of Meeting Houses for weddings that are not in the care of the Meeting.</u> Current entry accepted at YM19: A couple who are not Quaker or linked to Friends may wish to celebrate their wedding or commitment within (add: one of) our meeting house (add: s) and 'in the manner of Friends'. They write to the appropriate Clerk to ask that the meeting agree to such a ceremony, and agree to a time and a place. This decision is normally discerned by the Regional Meeting for Worship for Business

4) Regional Meetings were asked to share their practice if the visitors' report for a membership application includes a recommendation about the applicant's acceptance into membership. RMs differ in their practice. Is it useful if the visitors include a recommendation for membership or is this the discernment of the Regional Meeting for Worship for Business and not to be influenced by a recommendation in the report?

CRM	4) We confirm our practice that visitors to membership applicants usually include a recommendation in their report to RM. We note that there has been at least one occasion when this has not occurred.
NSWRM	4) Visitors' report on application for membership: We are in unity with the Handbook Revision Committee's proposed changes.
QRM	4) We confirm that QRM's visitors give a recommendation with their report and we find this a suitable and affirming inclusion. We note that Regional Meetings have not come to unity about the wording for four matters. We trust the committee to provide an acceptable wording.
SANTRM	4) SANTRM practice has been that visitors to those applying for membership make a recommendation to Regional Meeting which then becomes the basis for discernment at a Meeting for Worship for Business.
TRM	We accept these changes and thank the Committee for their work.
VRM	4) Under point 2), instead of ".....including a recommendation about the application", we suggest ".....and offer the Meeting guidance as to the applicant's readiness for membership".
WARM	4) WARM's current practice is for visitors to express an opinion on the applicant's suitability for membership. We think it would be useful for the visitors' report to include a recommendation, realising the Meeting for Worship for Business discerns if membership is given.

Quaker Learning Australia PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS

1) We ask that AYM continue to budget \$3000 per annum to QLA to support Meeting for Learning should it be able to go ahead.

CRM	1) We note the difficulties faced by the Quaker Learning Australia Committee over the last year. In searching the webpages, they had discovered that few if any new materials were being added or existing materials updated, despite the commitment of WARM to developing the collection. We also note that Meeting for Learning (MfL) has become vulnerable to the restrictions of COVID-19, with the result that this year's retreat is now in doubt. Because of the value of MfL to those from Canberra Meeting who have attended as well as others nationally, and the hope that this experience will be available to others in the future, we support QLA Committee's request that AYM budget \$3000 for MfL.
NSWRM	1) We support this recommendation. We encourage the Committee to investigate developing online learning opportunities.
QRM	1) We agree that AYM continue to budget \$3,000 per annum to QLA to support Meeting for Learning should it be able to go ahead.
SANTRM	1) SANTRM supports the ongoing financial support of \$3,000 for Meeting for Learning.
TRM	1) We are in agreement.
VRM	1) We agree.
WARM	1) We support the report's recommendations.

2) WARM's 3-year commitment to the QLA committee finishes in 2021. We are happy to continue for a further year if AYM finds this appropriate. We encourage other Regional Meetings to consider hosting QLA committee from 2022.

CRM	2) Finally, we note the Committee's request that other Regional Meetings consider hosting MfL. We are not aware of a group in CRM wishing to take on this responsibility
NSWRM	2) We note this.
QRM	2) We note that WARM's three-year commitment to the QLA committee finishes in 2021 and are grateful that they are willing to continue for a further year. We will publicise in QLetter that QLA requires a Regional Meeting to host a QLA committee from 2022
SANTRM	2) No response.
TRM	2) No response.

VRM WARM	2) VRM is not ready to host the AYM QLA Committee at this time. n/a
Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS	
1) That all Regional Meetings commit to a partnership with QPLC in the coming year to develop workshops, outreach and resources based on the peace testimony and designed to build more effective peacebuilding methods and action.	
CRM	We agree to these recommendations and are ready to hold an appropriate workshop or other activity in cooperation with QPLC, to ascertain how we can support the work of QPLC.
NSWRM	We do not believe that a formal partnership between NSWRM and QPLC would be fruitful. We believe individual Friends might be able to contribute usefully. We suggest that QPLC might host webinars for wider Friends' input, response and discussion.
QRM	QRM is supportive of exploring a partnership with Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee in the coming year. We will identify our key issues and strengths based on the peace testimony and designed to build more effective peacebuilding methods and action. QRM's Peace and Social Justice group will schedule an investigative Zoom discussion for QRM members and attenders. We will consider the opportunities for QRM to identify issues and to develop these as a form of outreach.
SANTRM	SANTRM sees great value in the work of QPLC, but are not sure how we can support this work without understanding specifically what will be involved. We suggest that existing QPLC processes to mobilise Friends remain sufficient.
TRM	We hear that resources do exist and that Maxine, on behalf of Justice and Peace will take this matter forward.
VRM	We wish to continue to work together with QPLC to pursue these aims.
WARM	We support the report's recommendations.
2) That AYM issue a public statement after the YM gathering calling on all those in positions of leadership to seek ways to promote cooperation and consensus in political, business and community life, building upon the spirit of mutual support that has been evident during the health crisis caused by COVID-19. This statement could reflect the vision of the recently established Commission for the Human Future.	
CRM	-
NSWRM	We support such a statement to be made. We recommend removing the last sentence.
QRM	We will engage at Yearly Meeting about developing public statements calling on all those in positions of leadership to continue to seek ways to promote cooperation and consensus in political, business and community life.
SANTRM	SANTRM supports consideration of AYM making a public statement, but recognises that important preparatory work will be needed by QPLC to allow this to happen.
TRM	We are in agreement and hear that at the Preparatory session it was determined that this will be a number of statements over a number of days.
VRM	We agree and suggest that National Council of Churches could also issue a statement.
WARM	We support the report's recommendations.
Quaker Service Australia PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS	
QSA sends the names of the following Friends from NSW Regional Meeting for confirmation as members of QSA Management Committee: Pia Reiersen and Garry Duncan	
CRM	We agree to hold a meeting within CRM to explore these issues further (as explained in a report by QSA RM Representative Alex Nicholson in a report to CRM.). We ask QSA to set a time for a Preparatory Session where QSA could speak to their work and respond to the concerns that we have.

<p>NSWRM</p> <p>QRM</p> <p>SANTRM</p> <p>TRM</p> <p>VRM</p> <p>WARM</p>	<p>We accept the suggested appointments to the Management Committee of QSA.</p> <p>We have discerned this previously and have accepted these names.</p> <p>We support the recommendations of the following Friends from NSW Regional Meeting for confirmation as members of the QSA Management Committee: Pia Reierson and Garry Duncan.</p> <p>SANTRM sees a need to clarify the relationship between the QSA linkages committee, AYM and the Regional Meetings. SANTRM requests that relevant information be provided about the candidates Garry Duncan and Pia Rierison.</p> <p>We note this.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> A separate QSA Linkages Committee Report was submitted to TRM and considered. TRM is in support of a review being undertaken of the linkages between QSA and AYM, which will include how information is shared between the two organisations.</p> <p>VRM accepts these names.</p> <p>We note that:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The function of the Linkages Committee, as stated in the latest terms of reference determined by the QSA Management Committee, is: <i>to support QSA through developing and sharing an understanding of the projects and wider institutional frameworks in which QSA is working... [and to] assist the QSA Management Committee to strengthen links between Regional Meetings and QSA.</i></p> <p>In the past Linkages Committee has reported to AYM and VRM would like that reporting to continue.</p> <p>VRM requests that AYM consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Would AYM like to continue to receive an annual report from the QSA Linkages Committee? 2. How do Australian Quakers influence or report back to QSA Management Committee? <p>We support the report's recommendations.</p>
<p>Review of Standing Committee PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS</p>	
<p>CRM</p> <p>NSWRM</p>	<p>We support the recommendations and the suggested changes to the Handbook.</p> <p>We ask that in relation to Point 2 of Appendix B, that the inclusion of National Committee Conveners or their representatives, be considered by Standing Committee at its meeting in January 2020, rather than in the future. When a particular issue arises, a member of the relevant National Committee may be present. This has particular import for the upcoming Standing Committee which will consider the National Redress Scheme.</p> <p>We hope that recognising Standing Committee as the Executive does not change the usual broad-based nature of Quakers decision making. We note that the provision of adequate lead time for Regional Meetings to consider items to be considered at Standing Committee included in the recommendations is designed to continue the broad-based approach. We recognise that there is the possibility that an extra burden will be placed upon the Regional Meeting Clerks who may be members of Standing Committee. We offer a reminder that representatives to Standing Committee do not have to be Clerks.</p> <p>We recognise the extra workload of the AYM Secretary due to more Standing Committee Meetings and ask that Standing Committee ensure that the Secretary has adequate support.</p> <p>We also note the importance of the Faith in Action sessions which were the outcome of a previous review of Standing Committee.</p> <p>All the above recommendations were accepted. We accept the recommendations in Appendix A and note the Recommendations in Appendix B.</p> <p>We accept that the role of SC needs clarification and accept many of the recommended efficiencies although we have some disquiet around some of the specific points:</p>

QRM	<p>a) The term “executive committee” to describe Standing Committee does not rest easily with QRM. “We entrust Standing Committee to do...” is preferred.</p> <p>b) Consistent attendance of RM Clerks or other appointees at all SC meetings is important for informed decision making. The Handbook confirms that appointments to Standing Committee are for three years. We recommend that this be emphasized by Standing Committee with all Regional Meetings.</p> <p>c) We expect that Regional Meeting views on agendas items for Standing Committee are made clear for our Clerks or other appointees.</p> <p>d) We have no difficulty with SC meeting on-line and the efficiencies that we hope will come from this.</p>
SANTRM	<p>We see that Standing Committee is being described as an executive committee in the Handbook and in the review of Standing Committee. We think this is misleading, and not how Standing Committee sees itself (based on the experiences of those present who had attended Standing Committee). We suggest that the Standing Committee review report Part B Recommendation 1, omit references to Standing Committee being an executive committee. The responsibilities of Standing Committee are outlined and we see that comparing these to an executive committee does not clarify the responsibilities, but adds further confusion.</p> <p>Standing Committee is already doing most of the things being suggested to add, with the exception of approving changes to the Handbook that have been endorsed by all Regional Meetings, which we are supportive of.</p> <p>Sensitive and confidential matters are considered by Standing Committee– this is already being done, and doesn’t seem to have been factored into this report. Does it need to be.</p> <p>Emergency decision making – support three days, as per recommendation from RHYM, this could be open to all members of SC, not just 3 people.</p> <p>We are unsure about the intention of the following recommendation: ‘Section 5.3.2 The fifth paragraph be deleted and replaced by the following: “Standing Committee can delegate any of its tasks to an office- bearer or committee”. Can further information be provided about why this has been recommended?</p>
	<p>Noted.</p>
TRM VRM	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We do not agree that Standing Committee be recognised at the “executive committee” of AYM. 2. We agree that That Standing Committee carry out its role within the guidelines of the Handbook, including regular consultation with Regional Meetings. 3. We agree that membership of Standing Committee remain as at present. We suggest that wording be “Additional on-line meetings of Standing Committee may be held so long as at least two face-to-face meetings are held.” We would like further clarification about who decides on the need to have additional meetings, and the frequency and timing of such meetings. 4. We are unable to agree with point 4, however we have incorporated the wording “on-line meetings” in point 3, above. 5. We agree that the preparation process for meetings of Standing Committee ensure that Regional Meetings have time to receive adequate information and arrange maximum participation by as many members/attenders as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The flow of business of Standing Committee, Yearly Meeting and Regional Meetings throughout the year. o We note the intention to spread AYM business across the year and the reasons for it. o We feel it is important to distinguish matters that really are for discernment from those matters that are for information. o There are a range of alternative ways of sharing information for campaigns or matters which are for information only. Some are webinars, seminars, newsletters, Australian Friend, Facebook, informal gatherings of Friends. o Concern was expressed about the extra discernment load on Regional Meetings throughout the year, proposed by the dissemination model.

	<p>6. We are unable to agree with point 6 as this assumes we have agreed to points 1-5 above. Amendments to the Handbook should be considered via our current process for making such changes.</p> <p>7. We agree to this point with a slight wording change. "That no change be made to the Association's Rules until any new procedures are well established".</p> <p>8. We agree that the points raised in Appendix B be noted for future discernment in the light of experience of the changes being made in Standing Committee's work.</p>
WARM	<p>We ask that the reviewers outline the problem that the recommended changes are intended to solve.</p> <p>WARM values the flatter, non-hierarchical processes that have been a feature of Quaker decision making and would like a clearer explanation of what is meant by describing Standing Committee as the "executive committee of AYM".</p> <p>We support recommendation number 2 but note that the Handbook of Practice and Procedure generally reflects our current practice. We query the recommendation for changes to the Handbook ahead of changes to our practice.</p> <p>We support recommendations 3-5.</p> <p>We do not support recommendation number 6 and refer to the minute above for recommendation number 2.</p> <p>We support recommendation number 7.</p> <p>Recommendation 8 – We note these points.</p> <p>We ask that all these matters go to YM2020 for discernment.</p>
<p>Right Holding of Yearly Meeting Committee Report PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>1) this Committee be laid down at YM20, as it has accomplished the review which was its purpose. We note that at YM19, YM agreed that AYM should continue actively experimenting beyond the lifetime of the current Right Holding of Yearly Meeting Committee</p>	
<p>CRM</p> <p>NSWRM</p> <p>QRM</p> <p>SANTRM</p> <p>TRM</p> <p>VRM</p> <p>WARM</p>	<p>1) This item is deferred to our next meeting on 21 June.</p> <p>1) We accept this proposal.</p> <p>1) We agree that the Right Holding of Yearly Meeting Committee now be laid down.</p> <p>No response</p> <p>1) Noted.</p> <p>1) We agree.</p> <p>1) We support this recommendation</p>
<p>2) The YM Planning Support Committee be re-imagined as a continuing Friendly support for the future organising of YMs, and that this group should be tasked to maintain the Yearly Meeting Planning Manual at https://www.quakersaustralia.info/yimplanningsupport . This would assist with the role of 'conference organiser' but with a strong Quaker focus and knowledge. This committee would retain detailed information on both innovations and any difficulties, for future learning.</p>	

CRM NSWRM QRM SANTRM TRM VRM WARM	<p>2) deferred</p> <p>2) We accept this proposal and recommend that learnings from innovations and difficulties of previous YMs be retained. We recommend that the updated online YM planning manual link be circulated widely.</p> <p>2) The YM Planning Support Committee will continue its work of supporting those who organise each yearly meeting.</p> <p>2) We support the establishment of expert committee/s to plan the Yearly Meeting event. Based on the experiences of the people in the room, many aspects of Yearly meeting could be planned remotely, with some local input and arrangements required (such as scouting venues, connections with local elders). Having a consistent venue (such as Avondale) would likely ease many of these challenges, and appreciate CRM's initiative in using Avondale again so soon.</p> <p>If an ongoing Yearly Meeting Committee was established, we think SANTRM would be willing to be part of this committee. SANTRM has contributed to the last two Yearly Meetings (children at Avondale, NSW; and children and friendly school at Hobart). If YM 2022 was held at Avondale again, we think SANTRM would be willing to contribute to organising this YM with collaboration from other RMs (noting the offer from WARM)</p> <p>2) Noted.</p> <p>2) We agree.</p> <p>2) We support this recommendation.</p>
<p>3) The process of preparing agendas and reports for Standing Committee and YM should be simplified, so that the deadline for reports to the AYM Secretary may be as close as possible to the date on which they are needed for RM discernment. This could be achieved by website publication, with RM responses added to each report. This means Committee reports for DiA would no longer be 3 months out of date when they reach YM.</p>	
CRM NSWRM QRM SANTRM TRM VRM WARM	<p>3) deferred</p> <p>3) We accept these recommendations.</p> <p>3) We commend the committee for the recommendations #3 – 9 in the Report of the Right Holding of YM Committee. We look forward to their implementation.</p> <p>3) No response.</p> <p>3) Noted.</p> <p>3) We agree.</p> <p>3) We are open to any improvement in AYM processes and timelines, but wish to be mindful of the importance of leaving enough time for hearts and minds to be prepared for Business Meeting discernments.</p>
<p>4) The timetable for YM should give careful time for Preparatory Sessions for items requiring discernment only. We recommend that Committees, Interest Groups, and other groups whose reports do not have a 'Part B' (recommendations for discernment), should consider giving their report in other ways; for example, QSA or The Friends' School might choose to give their report in a webinar at another time than at YM, with a link to this report at YM itself. It is important that this is seen as a better way of promoting their work, not as a disempowerment. Alternatively, time could be put aside so that Friends make a choice as to which Session they wish to go to in order to hear about the work of the committee they have an interest in. We note it would be helpful if the information content of such sessions could be podcast, so that Friends could, if they so chose, catch up on the presentation portion at some later time. This is effectively being trialled in YM20's virtual environment.</p>	

CRM	4) Deferred
NSWRM	4) We accept these recommendations.
QRM	4) Accept
SANTRM	4) No response.
TRM	4) Noted.
VRM	4) We need to approach this matter with caution. We are concerned that such reports should appear in DIA and that Friends hear from those who wish to share their work at YM. We understand that Reports without a Part B will not be considered in Preparatory Sessions, but in other ways at YM.
WARM	4) We are broadly supportive of this recommendation and look forward to reviewing the outcomes of YM20's trialling in the virtual environment.
5) Where it is appropriate (as agreed by the Presiding Clerk and Secretary, with support as required), some reports and/or items for discernment could be sent out to RMs for their consideration apart from Documents in Advance, and if all RMs are in unity, this decision may be accepted by Standing Committee on behalf of YM, and agreed on at YM in a simple draft Minute. This would reduce items for discernment at YM to those which truly require deep discernment. This is effectively being trialled in YM20's virtual environment. It is increasingly important to give Friends who do not/cannot attend RMs a chance to be heard. We note that a number of RMs now offer online participation in their meetings for worship for business, and encourage all Friends to be involved as they can.	
CRM	5) Deferred
NSWRM	5) We accept these recommendations.
QRM	5) Accept
SANTRM	5) No response.
TRM	5) Noted.
VRM	5) We look forward to seeing how this works in practice for YM2020, before further consideration
WARM	5) We support this recommendation. However, we are troubled by the apparent emergence of wording describing a hierarchy of discernment (here, "truly require deep discernment") and instead suggest simply stating "discernment at YM".
6) Annual reports from RMs (from the previous year, October-September) should be submitted for acceptance by Standing Committee in January, in order to table them at the AGM. This would spread the workload of the AYM Secretary. Should this be done, these individual RM reports and the State of the Society address could be published in the YM Secretary's Newsletter. It would be engaging if at least the State of the Society address could be podcast or live-streamed. Note that YM may be in July, 10 months from RM annual reports.	
CRM	6) deferred
NSWRM	6) We accept these recommendations.
QRM	6) Accept
SANTRM	6) No response.
TRM	6) Noted.
VRM	6) VRM accepts these recommendations.
WARM	6) We support the recommendation regarding RM Annual Reports
7) should give consideration to holding the State of the Society Address at the AGM in January or February (3-4 months from RM annual reports), and that this be live-streamed, instead of at YM (which may be in July, 10 months from RM annual reports). Note that YM may be in July, 10 months from RM annual reports. There is sometimes difficulty in including the State of the Society Address within the YM timetable.	

CRM	7) deferred
NSWRM	7) We accept these recommendations.
QRM	7) Accept
SANTRM	7) No response.
TRM	7) Noted.
VRM	7) VRM accepts these recommendations.
WARM	7) Regarding the State of the Society Address, this Address is based not only on RM Annual Reports but also on all other reports in Documents in Advance. We therefore are of the view that the State of the Society Address will be reflecting on some less current reports whenever it is delivered.
8) Preparatory Sessions need to explain and give due weight to RM discernment. Our business discernment process is grassroots up. Regional Meetings' discernment is an important precursor to further YM consideration at a Preparatory Session, just as the Prep Session's consideration is important to the discernment at the formal session of Yearly Meeting. Friends attending the formal session should be familiar with the report, the RM responses, and have attended the Prep Session before offering ministry at the formal session.	
CRM	8) Deferred
NSWRM	8) We accept these recommendations.
QRM	8) Accept
SANTRM	No response.
TRM	8) Noted.
VRM	8) VRM confirms that this is current practice and accepts this recommendation.
WARM	8) We do not support the proposal that ministry at formal sessions be restricted as described. We agree that, ideally, Friends attending a formal session will have read the relevant report and the RM responses beforehand, and have attended the Preparatory Session if possible.
9) YM, RMs, and other groups continue to educate themselves on our Quaker processes of discernment. Are you familiar enough with our church government to contribute to its disciplined processes? (Advices & Queries 16)	
CRM	9) Deferred
NSWRM	9) We accept these recommendations.
QRM	9) Accept.
SANTRM	No response.
TRM	9) Noted.
VRM	9) VRM accepts this recommendation.
WARM	9) We support this recommendation.
Safe Quaker Community PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS	
That each RM in their regional meeting report to AYM report on the way they have been implementing the Safe Quaker Community policy over the last year, particularly given that after the national workshop held in Brisbane, Pastoral Care and Oversight committees are supporting Contact Friends.	
CRM	Our Safe Quaker Community Contact Friends (SQCCF), Chris Larkin and Jonathan Benyei, have updated us about the role. On this basis we note that the 2019 CRM review working group recommended that the SQCCFs be members of the Pastoral Care and Oversight Committee, to foster closer links. This was agreed to and has been incorporated in recently updated role descriptions for both PC&O members (April 2020) and SQCCFs (May 2020).

	<p>We have displayed the brochure created by the national committee at Turner Meeting House, plus it is with Local Meetings - in Goulburn with Elaine Cornwell who is on PC&O and with Jonathan at Batemans Bay. We will ensure Wagga and Bega meetings also have it – with both our names and contact details on it.</p>
NSWRM	<p>We will ensure that in future annual reports we will include details of the implementation of the Safe Quaker Community policy in our region.</p>
QRM	<p>We support this recommendation. We note the need to support our Safe Quaker Contact Friend, Ann Britton, and to actively promote her name and role, and our Safe Quaker Community Policy. We are reminded of the value of support groups for individual Friends. We are reminded that historical traumas may have ongoing effects, and we commit to addressing these.</p>
SANTRM	<p>The committee asks Regional Meetings to include the actions they have taken towards Safe Quaker Communities in their annual report to Yearly Meeting. We will include a general report on actions, but respect confidential matters.</p>
TRM	<p>No response.</p>
VRM	<p>We are in agreement that each RM report to AYM on the way that they have been implementing the Safe Quaker Community policy over the last year. We agree.</p>
WARM	<p>We support this recommendation.</p>