

Quakers Australia Committee Report

Transition Implementation Working Group (TIWG)

Membership:

Kerstin Reimers, Jennifer Burrell, Jonathan Benyei

Part A – Report

Progress

The transition to the new Quakers Australia Office structure has been successful to date.

- The QA Coordinator, David Tehr, part-time permanent employee (27h/w), commenced work on 1 July 2023. His 6-month probation period concludes on 1 February 2024.
- The QA Communications & Publicity Manager, Holly Dhynes, part-time contractor (17 h/w, 12-month contract), commenced on 1 August 2023 (Australian time). This position is a member of the IT Committee.
- Jacque Schultze, our former Secretary, retired effective from 14 September 2023, after giving both new staff a meticulous hand-over. We are grateful for her exemplary service to us all.

The two volunteer positions required by the new structure have not yet been filled. The TIWG team are filling both Probity Adviser and Staff Oversight & Support (SOS) roles for the time being. This has been an unforeseen serendipitous outcome: we now realise that TIWG are best placed for the SOS role during this first year of settling-in the new structure. We have requested the QA Nominations Committee to continue to search for a name to bring forward for the SOS role after JulyYM24. We continue to seek a Probity Adviser.

We are confident that our new QA Office team is working well, that teething problems are being resolved (e.g. the IT set-up of David's home office), and that the new structure is proving its benefit to Friends.

TIWG lays down its service at JulyYM25. We anticipate that by that time, the new structure will be working effectively and efficiently in the service of us all.

Issues (if any)

1. The two volunteer positions are still vacant (see above).
2. We are grateful for the support of our QA Archivist, Saadia Thomson-Dwyer, whose assistance to David Tehr has been extremely valuable. Records management is an important part of the Coordinator's role. We see our Archivist as a key stakeholder and ongoing support within the new structure.
3. We thank the IT Committee for welcoming Holly Dhynes.
4. We recognise that the timing for the newly restructured Finance Committee has been serendipitous, as we move to a new way of handling payments.
5. We are concerned that our Handbook does not yet reflect our new QA Office structure. We offer any assistance to the Handbook Revision Committee which may be useful to them in their service, and hope to see updates brought to JulyYM24.

Part B Item for consideration by January Yearly Meeting 2024

Nil.