

nsw Federation of
Housing Associations inc

ABN 86 488 945 663

Minutes Board of Directors *Teleconference* Held 10 March 2008

Meeting opened

Teleconference opened at 4pm.

1. Present

Adam Farrar, Nick Sabel, Bobbie Townsend, Nazha Saad, Mohamed Ibrahim, Patrick Yeung, Coral Garatt

Apologies

Nil

2. Agenda

The Board agreed to discuss 2 items:

1. MA proposed contract
2. EOI response to Board vacancy

3. Declaration of conflict of interest

AF registered a conflict of interest regarding the proposed MA contract due to his relationship with MA National Manager of Community Services, Eleri Morgan-Thomas (refer to briefing paper). The Board agreed that given the nature of the conflict that AF should not participate in the decision or discussion re this issue.

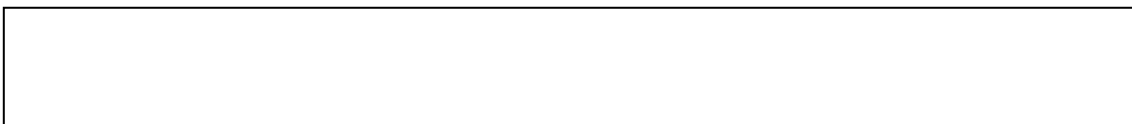
AF left the teleconference at 4.34pm.

Bobbie Townsend declared a potential conflict of interest as Eleri is also the Chair of the Board of Women's Housing Company. It was agreed that Bobbie would not be involved in any decisions regarding this issue.

4. Discussion

Board vacancy

- Only one response was received in regard to the Board vacancy. This was from Greg Budworth, CEO, Compass Housing.



- The Board unanimously agreed that Greg Budworth be accepted to fill the casual vacancy on the Board.

Motion: The Board accepts Greg Budworth, CEO, Compass Housing to fill the casual vacancy on the Board

Moved: Nick Sabel **Seconded:** Nazha Saad Accepted

MA contract proposal (refer to briefing paper)

- The Board felt that the MA proposal raised a bigger issue relating to how the Federation responds to new and emerging players that would compete directly with existing community housing organisations.
- The Board acknowledged that a discussion about this 'new playing field' and the role of the Federation should be discussed with the sector. There was a sense that failure to engage the sector on this issue immediately could create negative perceptions amongst the membership, particularly that the Federation was not working in the members' best interests.
- The Board agreed that the Federation cannot nor should not be 'protectionist' or a 'closed shop' in this new environment. It also acknowledged that it had a key role in providing leadership for the sector.
- The Board indicated that significant growth and changes occurring within some sections of the sector were creating tensions amongst members. The Board was also concerned about the potential for division and less cohesion amongst the current members due to growth and changes.
- The Board assessed that proceeding with the MA proposal without sector engagement about the role of the Federation in this new environment was a risk to the Federation's reputation and may contribute to sector division. This risk was seen to be greater than the probable fall-out and negative response from MA in not proceeding with the proposal.
- The Board agreed that a strategic approach was required regarding this issue. This would include further discussion at the next Board meeting, discussion with the sector at the next HAM, communication to MA of the procedural principle involved concerning sector discussion about this issue and follow up communication with MA upon resolution of the issue.

Motion: That the Board does not proceed with the MA proposal

Moved: Mohamed Ibrahim **Seconded:** Nazha Saad Accepted

*NB. Bobbie Townsend abstained from the vote due to identified conflict of interest (see point 3).

Meeting closed: 5pm

