



AGM MINUTES

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

AGM COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 1st December 2021

Time: 5:45 pm – 7:00 pm

Venue: Zoom

Committee members present: David Moore, , David Vinegrad, Alikki Vernon (office-bearers); Garry Roach (JSS); Angela Ballard (CVRJA); Kristy Elliot (Education); Michael Wood (WA).

Members present: Stacy Sanders, Liz Curran, Jen Hitchman, John Russell, Lena Lettau, Chris Harrison, Brigid Henley, Robert Topping.

Agenda item		Actions
Chair Welcome Apologies: Michael Mitchell, Amanda O’Neil, Antoinette Carroll, Heather Page; Aunty Lois Peeler; Masahiro Suzuki; Jamie-Lee Costa; Liz Browne, Jodie Grant, Sarah Devine.	Alikki	
Confirmation of minute taker	Garry	
Confirmation of previous AGM minutes: Moved by Kristy & seconded Dave V		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ President’s Annual Report (David M) Overview of AARJ activities for the year: Networking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Representation from around the country WA/Vic/Qld/ ACT/NT ➤ With NSW and SA Colleagues expressing interest in joining ➤ Community of practice for people in specific programs/regions :Central Vic; Melb – meets monthly ➤ Book group (Kristy) with Kristen Reimer (Monash academic), includes participants from South Africa and Asia Influencing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Presentation to Law Reform Commission; ➤ Presentation to the Judicial College of Victoria; ➤ Involvement in the National Redress Scheme has linked others to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Police redress scheme o Ambulance Vic redress scheme 		

<p>Submissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Victorian Criminal Justice System Review; ➤ Victorian Law Reform Commission Report on Sexual Offences: Restorative and Alternative Justice Models; ➤ Supporting the Aboriginal Justice Caucus’s submission to the Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health; ➤ Consultation on the proposed Victorian ‘Victim-Centred RJ Program’ (Department of Justice and Community Safety). ➤ <p>Impacts of training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Setting Relations Right 3- day workshop at Uni College (provided by David and Alikki) has participation from a wide representation of areas, orgs, individuals, and sectors, and supports the formation of communities of practice; ➤ School-based training (provided by Dave and Kristy)... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treasurer’s Annual Report (David V) Written report presented by David Vinegard Transactions from Paypal account mostly admin expenses, website costs. ▪ Membership Fees: Confirmation that there will be no changes to the annual subscription and joining fee this coming year, as it is meeting costs and is affordable for individuals & organisation. However, we will consider raising the fee at the AGM in 2023. <p>Administration: we acknowledged Anne Conrad for her administrative support and valuable expertise throughout the year.</p>		
<p>The existing office bearers have renominated and been re-elected for 2022: President: David Moore Vice President & Secretary: Alikki Vernon Treasurer: David Vinegard Moved Garry – Seconded Brigid Henley</p> <p>NB. Michael Mitchell has resigned from the Committee for 2022. Anne Conrad will manage memberships and some secretariat functions as required.</p> <p>Organisational & professional representatives on the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Garry Roach & Genevieve Higgins (representing Jesuit Social Services [JSS]) ▪ Angela Ballard (representing Central Victoria Restorative Practice Alliance [CVRPA]) ▪ Aunty Lois Peeler (representing the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committee [RAJAC]) ▪ Kristy Elliot (educational specialist) <p>Jurisdictional representatives:</p>		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The ACT: (represented by Heather Page, Amanda O’Neil, Antoinette Carroll, Restorative Justice Unit [RJU]); ▪ QLD: (representatives names to be confirmed by Department of Youth Justice); ▪ WA: (represented by Michael Wood, University of Western Australia). ▪ NSW and SA representatives will be confirmed in 2022. <p>Thanks, and appreciation were extended to all Committee members for their efforts throughout 2021.</p>		
<p>Plans for AARJ 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On-line forums: In November this year, AARJ hosted an Education Forum where Committee members Kristy Elliott and Dave Vinegrad reflected on their experiences of promoting restorative practices in schools. Next year, the Committee is planning to host a number of on-line forums which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Leading a Restorative School;</i> ○ <i>Evaluating RJ programs;</i> ○ <i>Restorative practice(RP) in Out of Home Care;</i> ○ RP in Uni Residential Colleges; ○ Update on the effectiveness of Redress Schemes. ▪ Community of Practice (COP) groups: AARJ committee members will continue to provide support to the community of practice groups that are already established and to support the formation of other groups. This support includes hosting and facilitating the practice groups as well as providing materials & advice as required by the practice group. The current communities of practice groups are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Melbourne Restorative Practices Group (MRPG): began in 2020. The MRPG has met both online and in-person (with colleagues from other states and territories joining the online sessions); ➤ Practitioners in programs COP: which has been meeting since late 2019 & continues to connect convenors from programs across Australia and from New Zealand. Convenors meet on-line to discuss case studies and share skills and knowledge. ➤ Statutory program leaders COP: this group is for program managers to discuss relevant information which supports program development, including how to negotiate with funding bodies. <p>The other possible groups that AARJ may support in 2022 are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sexual assault (including child abuse & institutional abuse) COP: this includes supporting the Government National Redress Scheme providers who already meet, and may supporting facilitators on various Redress Schemes; ➤ Gender-based violence COP: members of the Committee have discussed supporting the formation of this group in the new year, with participants who were part of the PD training held at University College in May this year. 		

<p>NB. The Central Victorian RJ Alliance are aiming to recommence their group meetings in 2022.</p>		
<p>Feedback from members regarding what would be useful or valuable for AARJ to be doing in 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ supporting a gendered-violence community of practice; ▪ hosting more on-line forums and bringing people together; ▪ providing updates via the website on what’s happening in the RJ/RP space. <p>The group didn’t get a chance to discuss how members could play a more active role or contribute more to AARJ. However, this a question that the Committee will pursue with members in 2022.</p>		
<p>Presentation: Robert Topping is Restorative Practice Coordinator (RPC) at Brisbane Youth Detention Centre (BYDC). Robert’s counterpart RP Coordinators are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Sarah Cahill in Townsville Cleveland YDC (CYDC), and ▫ Majella Ritchie in the newly completed, smaller-scale West Moreton YDC, adjacent to BYDC. <p>YDC staff readily understand the theory and practice of restorative <i>justice</i> – using group conferences to respond to youth crime. Some staff have struggled with the broader, deeper, and less immediately obvious concept of restorative <i>practices</i>.</p> <p>The challenge of adopting restorative practices is increased by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ competing demands between <i>professional</i> and <i>operational</i> staff; ▫ the need to further align official workforce policies and procedures, and align these with broader cultural change; ▫ the size of the Centres: BYDC and CYDC have more than 150 and 100 beds respectively, whereas West Moreton YDC has only 32 beds – making it easier to set and maintain a consistent culture. <p>Conversely, the work of adopting restorative practices has been facilitated by a recent massive staff recruitment drive. Each new employee receives two days of foundational restorative practice training on the mindset and skillset to work in an authoritative - firm <i>and</i> fair – manner, and intentionally build relationships. This includes using Communication and Resolution Techniques (CART) in response to challenging behaviours and incidents.</p>		

<p>There is a sense that the larger centres are now close to the tipping point at which relationship management, using restorative practices, becomes <i>the way we do things here</i>. The QLD Coordinators are in regular contact with each other, and also now with counterpart Communities of Restorative Practice that have been established– with the official backing of senior management and the Victorian state government – in the two large Victorian YDCS at Parkville and Malmsbury.</p> <p>Most powerfully of all: work is now being done to nominate some young people as <i>RP champions</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>When young people can look up to someone who believes in them, it becomes easier to believe in themselves.</i> 		
<p>AARJ would like to thank all its members for their support through 2021. We look forward to continuing to our important reform work throughout 2022</p>		

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