Deaf Advocacy, Sports & Recreation ACT Inc.

2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday 30th November 2025 – 10:30am

Yerrabi Pond District Park – Wunderlich Street Gungahlin, ACT 2912

MINUTES

1. Open/Welcome address by Secretary Louise Irvine – Meeting Opened at 10:37am

The Secretary welcomed all members to the 16th Annual General Meeting.

Louise Irvine agreed to be the Minute Taker for this AGM.

2. Rollcall and check of the quorum

2.1 Attendance

The rollcall was performed, and the necessary quorum was ascertained.

21 Members were present plus the two interpreters.

DeafACT Board/Committee:
Lauren Reid
Jacob Clarke
Louise Irvine
Kellyanne Rosalion
Nicole Seifert
Ian Slinn
Helen Trendos
Aisha Hitaua

Interpreters (members):
Amanda Dolejší
Sheree Murray

Members:
John Chapman
Simone Xirakis
Zoe Zeller
Belinda Dawson
Miles Kemp
Dean Bayre
Amanda Slinn (Curtis)
Richard Rosalion
Gavin Reid
Katie Wilmington
Billy Garcia
Christine Yerbury
Mitchell Wall

2.2 Apologies

Vera Hall
Max Hall

2.3 Proxies

Mandy Dolejsi
Ivan Dolejsi

3. Minutes of the previous AGM

3.1 Matters arising from the 15th AGM

There were no matters arising.

Motion: The Minutes of the 15th AGM, accepted as a true record of the meeting.
Moved: Kellyanne Rosalion
Seconded: Gavin Reid
Motion carried.

4. Presentation of the 2025 Annual Report

It is my pleasure to present this President's Report for the 2024-2025 financial year as part of our Annual General Meeting. This year has been full of community connection, new leadership, memorable events, and a few challenges along the way.

As we look back over the past 12 months, I want to acknowledge everyone who helped make our activities meaningful and successful. Together, we have built a year worth remembering, even while facing ongoing funding hurdles.

Our year in review

Throughout the year, we organised a wide range of events that brought our community together to create memories, celebrate achievements, and support one another. Before our grant funding ended, we ensured that community trips, theatre visits, workshops, and sports programs were made available to support our members.

One of our early highlights was the Social mixed netball season in November 2024, where DeafACT members participated in a 10-week program. We extend our thanks to Diana for her excellent coaching and to all the players who were involved. That same month, Louise received the Inclusion Award at the 2024 Volunteering Awards – Canberra Region, recognising her outstanding contribution to DeafACT.

In January 2025, DeafACT partnered with Access Canberra and Convo to set up improved communication access for Deaf and hard of hearing people. During the year, Louise continued to advocate strongly behind the scenes, working with Canberra Health Services, the ACT Government, and the Minister for Disability to improve interpreter bookings and access.

Last July, Diana Ciuffetelli proudly represented Australia as goalkeeper for Deaf Football Australia in her first international match. This year also included the Deaflympics in Japan, where more than 140 Australian athletes represented the country in various sports. We proudly acknowledge our DeafACT members who participated.

Ian Slinn represented Australia in Stand-Up Paddle (SUP). He won his first round and made it to the semi-final. His previous longboard surfing competitions include Australia in 2005, Japan in 2007, Hawaii in 2009, and the World Deaf Triple SSS event in Japan in 2025, which features surfing, skateboarding, and SUP.

We also celebrate the achievements of Greg Ophel, who played beach volleyball in Japan. At the Australian Embassy event, Greg was announced as one of the vice-captains of the Australian Deaflympics Team, with tennis player Glenn named as the male flag bearer. Greg was also the only Australian athlete to compete across three different Deaflympic sports, participating in basketball in New Zealand, volleyball in Australia, and beach volleyball in Japan. Many of us were surprised to learn that Greg was not the tallest in his team.

This year also marked significant interpreter achievements. Both Lewis Ophel and Grace Ophel successfully gained their CI (Certified Interpreter Level 3) accreditation. We also welcomed a new interpreter, Julia Rayner, who completed her NAATI certification earlier this year.

Alongside major achievements, we continued to deliver important community gatherings such as the Youth group, Women's group, Men's group, Seniors group, and the DeafACT Easter and Spring picnics.

Board Member Changes

This year, we saw several changes within our board. Gavin Reid stepped down due to health reasons, and we sincerely thank him for his dedication and for organising many Men's group activities, including club meetups, bowling, golf, and social events.

We welcomed Aisha Hitaua as the new leader of the Women's group. Aisha has brought strong energy and enthusiasm to the role, creating inclusive and enjoyable activities for Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing women in our community.

Funding challenges and future plans

It has been a challenging year for DeafACT on the funding front, as we have been unable to secure any new grant support. This has meant we have been unable to run further community events. We are truly grateful for the patience and understanding shown by our members during this time.

The board continues to explore new funding opportunities, partnerships, and potential grants that will allow us to restart regular programs and create new activities for the community.

Looking ahead to 2026

Despite the challenges we face, I remain optimistic. With the commitment of our Board members and the continued support of our broader community, we will work hard to secure funding, strengthen partnerships, and bring more community events back into the DeafACT calendar. The strength, passion, and determination of our community give me confidence that brighter days are ahead.

Closing remarks and Christmas wishes

Thank you for your continued support, involvement, and enthusiasm throughout the year. You are what makes DeafACT special, and I look forward to the moments we will share in the coming year.

Wishing you all a joyful, merry, and safe Christmas.

Motion: That the Annual Report present by the President be accepted.
Moved: Louise Irvine
Seconded: Kellyanne Rosalion
Motion carried.

5. Presentation of the 2024-25 Annual Financial Statement

The Treasurer presented the Annual Financial Statement to the meeting.

Motion: That the meeting receives and accept the financial statement as a true account for the 2024-25 financial year.
Moved: Amanda Slinn
Seconded: Katie Wilmington
Motion carried.

6. Appointment of the Returning Officer and scrutineers

The Chair stood down.

Amanda Slinn was appointed Returning Officer by general agreement of the meeting.

7. Election and Induction of office bearers

7.1 Proxies reminder
Proxies will only be required if a vote is required.

7.2 President: One nomination – Lauren Reid was nominated off nomination form. Lauren accepted and was elected unopposed.

7.3 Vice President: One nomination – Jacob Clarke was nominated off nomination form. Jacob accepted and was elected unopposed.

7.4 Secretary: One nomination – Louise Irvine was nominated off nomination form. Louise accepted and was elected unopposed.

7.5 Treasurer: No nominations.

7.6 Public Officer: One nomination – Kellyanne Rosalion was nominated off nomination form. Kellyanne accepted and was elected unopposed.

7.7 General Committee Members (up to 10 positions):

From the nomination forms:
Helen Trendos
Aisha Hitaua

Nominated by members at the meeting:
Simone Xirakis

Helen, Aisha and Simone accepted and were elected unopposed. We welcome Simone as a new member.

Congratulations to the DeafACT Board of 2026:

President: Lauren Reid
Vice-President: Jacob Clarke

Secretary: Louise Irvine
Treasurer:
Public Officer: Kellyanne Rosalion
General Committee: Helen Trendos, Aisha Hitaua, Simone Xirakis

The President took the Chair.

8. **Appointment of Auditors**

Motion: That the existing Accountant will continue next year.
Moved: Louise Irvine
Seconded: Kellyanne Rosalion
Motion carried.

9. **Additional Business**

No additional business.

10. **Announcement of date, place and time of the AGM**

It was agreed that the new committee would discuss and set a date and time for the next AGM to be held in November 2026.

Louise thanked all present and the interpreters for their service on behalf of DeafACT and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

11. **The AGM meeting closed at 10:54am.**