



Dance Movement Therapy Association of Australasia

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2017
12.30 pm Sunday 22 October
Community Room, Edinburgh Gardens, North Fitzroy

DRAFT MINUTES as at 29.11.17

1. **Welcome** by DTAA President Kim Dunphy and
2. Acknowledgement of country, Elizabeth Mackenzie

Present: Kim Dunphy, Jane Guthrie, Sally Denning, Elizabeth Mackenzie, Cecilia Lau, Sandra Lauffenburger, Mandy Agnew, Francoise Bale, Rosemary Smith, Juliette Kirkwood, Meredith Lucy, Robyn Price, Angela Kastanis, Anna Schlusser, Jennifer Helmich, Elizabeth Loughlin, Sue Mullane, Tessa Hens, Naomi Aitchison, Laura Houley, Angela Clough, Meagan Otu, Natalie Poole, Sharon Paetzold, Bouthaina Mayall, Kath Rummery.

Via Zoom: Tony Norquay, Vic; Brigitte Puls, NZ; Anne Hurst, NZ; Connor Kelly, Guam; Tracey Nicholson, Qld; Elise Loh, NZ.

Apologies: Steve Harvey, Heather Hill, Beatrice Lucas, Alexandra Jordan, Sharon Searle, Anna Giono, Fran Ostrobrurski, Eileen McDonald, Monica Espinoza, Ben Assan, Amanda Bryan, Jennifer Au.

3. **Minutes of AGM 2015-16:** Accepted

Moved: Elizabeth Mackenzie; seconded: Sally Denning

4. **Presentation of Annual Report** including Financial Report:

President's Report: President Kim Dunphy reported that current committee members met regularly at Elizabeth Mackenzie's home throughout 2016-2017, with more and more engagement with people not in Melbourne enabled by Zoom. Achievements for the year are significant, with achievements from the Strategic Plan documented in the Annual Report. These include establishment and advocacy of an agreed scale of pay for practitioners; more streamlined processes for Professional Membership and other levels; and a pro-active approach to mentoring members through Professional Membership application. Other initiatives yet to be implemented include auditing process for PD and supervision for Prov/ Prof members; establishment of a supervision reporting process for all Prov/ Prof members; establishment of an accrediting process for PDs, especially those not run by DTAA

Tess Hens was acknowledged for her excellent work in DTAA's administration role since mid 2015.

Finance Report: In the absence of Treasurer Jennifer Au and Deputy Treasurer Ben Assan, (both formal apologies for the event), the Financial Report was presented by the President. The loss of \$2651 for the year was largely due to expenses of the new membership system, and the final stages of the project of uploading all DTAA journal articles and Collections

books chapters, enabling them to be accessed on-line by members and for sale by others. A loss for next year is also likely, given the significant expenditure on our new book *Dance Therapy Collections 4*.

However, the General Committee are constantly working to ensure financial viability, and our equity of almost \$54,000 offers a good buffer. Currently the committee is able to operate within the DTAA's limited financial resources because of a huge amount of volunteer work, much of which is undertaken by Jane Guthrie.

Professional Membership Committee report: PMC Convenor Sandra Lauffenburger presented her report re the work of her committee. This has focussed on improvements to the membership process: Associate, Provisional, and Professional Membership forms have been improved with details clarified; templates have been created to expedite and clarify the membership review process. A letter to 60 Associate Members who were thought likely to be eligible for Provisional or Professional Membership members has had a very good result, with 30 people enquiring and ten becoming applications for upgrading, of which awards are being made today.

Publications

Convenor Jane Guthrie reported that the newest publication of the DTAA, *Dance Therapy Collections 4* is being launched today. The journal has been on hold whilst this has been underway, and should be completed soon. Further discussions re the journal agenda-ed for later in the meeting.

Professional development

Convenor Jane Guthrie spoke to her report. Last year's activities includes three special days of events at the AGM, Sarah Boas in Sydney, Jane and Heather Hill in Sydney on LMA. PD activities for next year include American Mary-Lee Hardenberg on site specific dance, Sarah Boas coming back February 9-11; special event combination of DMT and Bonnie Bainbridge's work in September. Special thanks to Robyn Price for her work on events in Sydney.

Regional Representatives

Connor Kelly, Convenor, based in Guam, reported her delight in corresponding with all the regional members, to share all of their news and summarise GC meetings in an informal way to help people feel a part of the whole.

Competency Project Sub-Committee

Convenor Sally Denning spoke to her report. Invited to join in the competency program development, last year began a functional analysis and received input on what should be in the competency framework, a draft being made. A contribution from all members are requested, to represent the breadth of what DMT we do, one on one, as a group, as a practitioner that weaves DMT in what we do, in aged care, and of course bringing in the discussion of the NDIS. Having a competency framework representing what DMT does and what we do. Having a moving session on this later. Adding, changing and adapting the framework to meet our needs as DMT.

HEMF Committee

Convenor Naomi Aitchison reported that at last year's AGM, Sally Denning was announced as the 2016 HEMF Award recipient. This year HEMF received three applications for research funding, which are still being processed. Heather Hill and Naomi have worked together to develop a resource to support people applying for grants, which is now available on HEMF Research page.

HEMF Finances as per report: Opening balance 1/7/16; Cash at bank \$6,684.40 and share portfolio value \$22877.63
Expenditure: \$2,680.00, Income: \$1,260.89
Closing Balance for the year 30/6/17: \$5265.29

PACFA report:

President Kim Dunphy reported her and Robyn Price's representation of DTAA at PACFA Council meeting in Sydney in April. Di Stow, President, and Maria Brett CEO were welcoming of DTAA's contribution. PACFA is making progress towards becoming a member of AHPA (Allied Health Professional Association), which could be beneficial to DTAA, given some benefits available to AHPA members, although one challenge is that this requires members to have Masters level training, which is difficult for DM therapists while we still don't have such training available in Australia.

Sharon Paetzold reported on her and Ben Assan's attendance at PACFA Council meeting and AGM in October 2017. Issues of relevance for DTAA: PACFA put forward a position statement in support of marriage equality bill, given the health benefits of marriage for LGBTI community. PACFA Board had a robust discussion about that, as it was difficult to make a statement, given that PACFA didn't have an agreed position on marriage equality. PACFA President agreed to make a statement, as she believed it was politically and socially poor that they don't have one. However, that perspective was challenging as it didn't represent all members. One Board member of PACFA was very distressed that PACFA did not take a public stand on this issue. DTAA President Kim Dunphy wrote in support of marriage equality on behalf of DTAA.

Ethics Committee- have developed a very comprehensive new ethics statement, addressing areas such as need to breach confidentiality.

CEO Maria Brett has been lobbying government for PACFA MA's to be eligible for Medicare rebates. To access Medicare rebates, you need to be registered under Allied Health which PACFA currently isn't. Looking at potentially 7 years now, this will require will degrees with specialised streams at AQF level 7. At the moment 70% of MA's practitioners are eligible to join AHPA apparently, but 100% are required for it to be considered.

New potential for College of Creative Arts is being discussed with other CAT associations. In terms of research congratulating Kim Dunphy, proposed to incoming board of research.

In response: Kim Dunphy clarified that it was only representing herself that she made a statement about marriage equality, she was not representing the DTAA.

This issue relates to a current issue for the DTAA with a member requesting that DTAA make a statement in support of another DMT association's public statement. This catalysed a consideration of the need for the DTAA to discuss what we might do, if anything, to comment or respond to current social and political issues. Because this item was not agenda-ed for the current meeting, Kim recommended that it be discussed at the General Committee before members' comments are requested.

Other initiatives

DTAA recommended pay scale: President Kim Dunphy reported on other initiatives achieved this year including a recommended pay scale now available on the DTAA website. There is no obligation for members to use that scale, but developed to help employers with framework for what to pay DM therapists. It draws from members' experiences of current pay rates. This also includes the recommendation that DM therapists undertake volunteer and

pro bono work in charitable and humanitarian organisations, but not volunteer in situations where that would otherwise be a paid job for a DM therapists. Members are encouraged to recognise the quality and seriousness of the profession, by charging for their services appropriately.

Research Committee report: While there has been no activity of a Research Committee again this year, the DMT profession has had three full time researchers, PhD scholars Ella Dumaresq and Sue Mullane, and Post-Doc researcher Kim Dunphy, as well as members doing modest amounts of writing and research. Sue and Ella have undertaken to convene research committee activities for 2018, most likely in the form of web-based seminars to discuss DMT and related research- to promote the use of research by practitioners, and stimulate the generation of research also.

NDIS Sub-Committee

Many Agnew presented this group's report in the absence of Convenor Jennifer Au. This group is working towards DTAA members having access to NDIS funds. Currently DMT is not listed as a profession suitable for funding by NDIS.

Jennifer Au's presentation in the morning' workshop outlined NDIS structure and the process for becoming providers. Cecilia recommended that members register themselves, even under other categories of providers to increase the NDIS' awareness of DMT. This could be expected to create momentum for NDIS to create a DMT category option.

Jennifer will share her PowerPoint with members and a special edition of the journal will be developed next year on this theme. Members are invited to write about their NDIS experiences for it.

Professional development pro-forma

Introducing new professional development pro-forma following PACFA's current requirements, felt most appropriate to align with PACFA, in terms of number of hours of professional development and how it is reported, reported by hours rather than points. This will mean Professional and Clinical Members also reporting to PACFA have the same requirements

Other issues raised by members

- Sally Denning requested that members be enabled to use the DTAA logo on their business card, which would allow enable a uniform approach in informing and advertising the DTAA. Mandy Agnew supported this idea. Sandra Lauffenburger proposed that the logo be a benefit for Provisional or Professional categories of members only. President Kim recommended this item be discussed by the PMC and reported back to members.
- Elizabeth Loughlin questioned current requirement for graduates to wait for two years before they are eligible for Professional Membership. PMC Convenor Sandra responded that it is a case by case to look at this. One reason for the two year clause is that Professional Members are currently able to supervise other members, which is not a suitable responsibility for a member without at least two years' experience. Sandra suggests that a planned initiative to address the issue of supervision, including who can do it and what training they should have, will be addressed by the PMC this coming year.
- Kath Rummery commented on IDTIA's considerations about whether they are engaged enough with DTAA's work, and whether there should be more engagement particularly incompetency development. Competency Committee Convenor Sally

Denning agreed that this would be very welcome. She recommended that the IDTIA have input re professional competencies and education standards.

- Re training standards, Kim commented that the competencies are required as a major step in the establishment of training standards for the DTAA. This is important in the light of new exciting possibilities including DMT Masters in Auckland and Melbourne. These institutions would then be able to look at the DTAA to determine what should be included as part of their training. This would be the ideal scenario of what we are working towards.
- PACFA membership: Robyn Price commented on how much of DTAA's fees go to PACFA, with the current fee scale meaning that the DTAA only gets \$15 of Professional Members' fees for a year. This means that fees don't cover the administration costs. Robyn's Gestalt Association fees with PACFA were \$365 a year. As unpopular as this is, Robyn recommends that fees are looked at to ensure the DTAA is sustainable and the funds are there to develop the profession.

Kim then brought the AGM to a close, but encouraged members to continue discussions in the breaks. The meeting then moved to three important agenda items.

Competency Project report update.

Dr Sally Denning reported on the project to redevelop competencies for DM therapists, beginning with a discussion and data gathering at previous AGM, followed by a literature research on competencies existed within DMT and worldwide. All members present and those who weren't were invited to participate at a later stage invited to give input into everything we do as a dance movement therapist.

She then reported on the current stage of the project, in which the sub-committee has taken all these statements and grouped them into broad headings.

She then invited members to participate in a movement activity in which they were asked to respond to the competency headings, first in movement and then in writing, offering relevant detail and articulation.

Findings from this activity will inform the next stage of the competency development. This will be followed by a series of critical incident interview with members at different professional stages to ensure that everything important about our practice has been captured.

New definition of dance movement therapy

Sandra Lauffenburger spoke to her report towards a revised definition of dance movement therapy. This initiative came about in response to some challenges with our current definition. This included the fact that it states movement before dance; that in Sandra's discussions with creative arts therapists and music therapists, it wasn't clear what was unique about dance therapists; and that with PACFA's regulatory bodies and insurances and competencies, it is important to be a professional industry and have a defining statement.

Jane Guthrie questioned whether Hanny Exiner's original definition taken into consideration with the mapping, Sandra confirmed that it had been.

Sandra stated that there are three things a definition has to convey to the public:

- in a succinct manner, what makes us unique
- convey why we are 'therapy' and not therapeutic dance
- convey our professionalism

Sandra then led a group movement experiential to explore the important aspects of a definition for DMT - Unique, Therapeutic, Professional- inviting members to explore those considerations working alone, and then moving into making one shared group shape.

Moving On journal future discussion

President Kim Dunphy spoke to her paper presenting options for what we wish to do with the journal into the future, Currently, we produce two editions a year, with Jane Guthrie doing all editing, and copying, posting and packaging etc, a very time-intensive process twice a year. Jane is still interested to continue with the journal moving forward, however more support and ideas are welcomed.

Options for discussion:

- Continue with two journals per year, Jane producing one, and the second with a guest editor. Kim Dunphy and Cecilia Lau are agreeable to undertake this in 2018 on the topic of NDIS, and how it engages with dance movement therapy. Future possibilities for special editions could be DMT with couples and families, for example.
- Reduce to one journal per year
- Consider on-line journal only for either of these options

- No journal, as there is a precedent for not having a journal as an association- like ACATA, a small organisation similar to ours; PACFA just started a journal and have decided to hire one person as editor rather than requiring members to take this responsibility as volunteers. IN this option we could consider making a stronger contribution to PACFA journal, which would then address DMT interests and make it more interesting for us to read. If we considered this option, we could use e-news for sharing more informal writings.

Discussion:

Is it possible to still do the option 3 in contributing to PACFA and also keep the journal?

Brigitte Puls: In favour of keeping the journal as part of identity of DTAA, and is interested in having some input. Recommends at least journal once a year. Not concerned with it being hard copy.

Tony Norquay: in favour of PACFA option 3 to increase information about DMT in mainstream publications

Sandra Lauffenburger: the peer review process for PACFA is a much higher standard so we would need to be keen to write to that standard.

Anna Foletta: Has experience in producing magazines and editing so may be interested in producing one. What is the time commitment for producing one of the journals.

Jane Guthrie: It depends how much you do how many contributors you've got. It takes Jane many months of almost full-time work. Recommends a team, better if there were a couple of people working together. The printing and posting part is just a couple of hours, not a big workload.

Robyn Price: Structure of the DTAA journal in comparison to Gestalt journal which has a theme, a couple of articles etc, and suggests making that a structural scope that's more

manageable. She recommends two issues a year but make it less effort to seek out the articles.

Rosemary Smith: issues with access to online journal

Tessa Hens: PACFA idea is great, and would there be other organisations with which we can share our work? Tess recently wrote an article for *Source Kids* for children with disabilities, sharing information about dance therapy with children.

Jane Guthrie: preference is to keep the 2 journals because reducing journal outputs might n affect overseas universities and subscribers. She suggest we develop articles from our journal and submit them to PACFA

Discussion re hard copy versus online.

Vote taken, with 18 voting for hard copy, and 9 voting for on-line only.

Vote taken for option: 0 votes in favour of discontinuing journal; 1 vote for cancelling journal and putting input into PACFA

Jane requested comments ideas for articles, offers of editing and planning of future journals

HEMF Award 2017

HEMF Convenor Naomi Aitchison presented 2017 HEMF awarded to Jennifer Helmich. Her entire working career has been combined with her nursing career, interested in the establishment of the IDTIA holding roles of convenor, training coordinator and took on many roles, and is still a faculty member of the institute. Tireless commitment and support to students. Also, a major force of bringing DTAA into PACFA, representing the importance of the connection to PACFA. Several years of paperwork policies and procedures. Accepted as a specialised form of counselling within PACFA. Comments on earlier years work and contributions to articles. On behalf of the DTAA we thank you.

Jennifer's response: Thank you, step by step, to take on challenges, a pleasure and an honour to watch students grow, retired, making space for something new.

Launch of Dance Therapy Collections 4.

Presentation of awards to new Provisional Members:

Elise Loh
Anna Foletta
Valeria Pierobon
Angela Kastansis
Mary-Claude Vinet
Laura Houley
Verity Danbold

Presentation of awards to new Professional Members:

Meredith Lucy
Brigitte Puls
Lauren Jones
Robyn Price
Cecilia Lau