

Note of Oxfam Australia Board Meeting – 21 September 2018

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) board met on Friday 21 September. This six-hour meeting was largely given over to a special session on new strategy options for OAU and a discussion of these options through a risk management lens. The meeting was held by video conference linking up Melbourne, Sydney and Perth for reasons of both economy and environmental responsibility.

The meeting started with an update from the Chief Executive (CE) of OAU's activities and performance in the current environment, which is challenging, and discussion around this. The picture as to Oxfam's global developments were also covered, including progress on the Oxfam 2020 unification process.

The board dealt with several governance matters, viz. the re-appointment of Ian Anderson, Lill Healy and Mark Pryn as external members of board committees. The board expressed its great appreciation for the contribution over many years of Ian, Lill and Mark and the appointment of four board members as respondents from the board side to the DFAT re-accreditation process, which is starting soon.

At this meeting, there was a significant discussion about what Oxfam Australia might look like post-2020 and possible pathways to our future. Leadership tabled a number of possible models. The preferred one may see OAU concentrate on programming in its locality, including its Indigenous programs, and continue and strengthen its role as a global influencer of positive change. The board welcomed this over the horizon view and expressed itself to be positive about a reshaped and agile profile for the organisation.

The major part of this meeting was one of the two sessions per year that are largely given over to strategic workshops, this one on the subject of strategic risk. Deloitte facilitated a shared examination of 'what must go right' for OAU to succeed in its mission to pursue a fair world, free of poverty.

Dennis Goldner,
Chair
September 2018