

Oxfam Australia Board Meeting 11 October 2019

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) board met in Melbourne on Friday 11 October 2019 with 9 board members attending, plus our staff participant and observer. On this occasion, the board welcomed Des Rogers who attended the meeting as an observer and was appointed as a First People's Representative to the Board at the end of the meeting. The Board also farewelled Gideon van der Westhuizen whom the board thanked for his contribution to building out the risk framework at Oxfam.

After formalities, the board received and discussed the CE's report which covered company performance; the change process currently underway; organisation culture, the CRM project, the current status of the continuing DFAT suspension and the approach being undertaken to have the suspension lifted and the work across Oxfam including Climate Change and the Pacific Island Forum. The CE spoke to her reflections arising from her first two months at Oxfam and the key business imperatives going forward. Tabled and discussed also with the CE's report was the Report of Outcomes and Decisions from the OI Executive Board meeting and Global Strategy Forum in Nairobi in September 2019.

The board then received detailed reports on the CRM project, draft FRAC minutes from teleconferences regarding that project and a report on the organisation's cash flow and discussed all papers at length.

In other board matters the board's self-assessment and Chair succession were discussed, appointments to the Remuneration Committee were confirmed and meeting dates for 2020 were tabled.

A substantive part of the meeting was allocated to board strategy and specifically considering the question *what does the changing environment for funding international aid agencies, including Oxfam look like, who will be the stakeholders and how does an agency like Oxfam relate to them?*

The Director Funding and Resource Growth presented a paper on Income Planning and led the discussion which included macro trends for the industry, OAU's performance - including areas in decline and areas for potential future investment, and key strategic imperatives going forward. The paper laid the ground for discussions around the organisation's next strategic plan including income generation. Management were congratulated on the quality of the paper.

The board endorsed the finalisation of a five year income growth plan (3 years planned and two years forward projections) by February 2020 that is aligned with the development of the forthcoming Oxfam Australia 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan

The board meeting concluded with an *in camera* session with feedback subsequently provided to the CE.

Lindy Tallis
Deputy Board Chair

November 2019