

## **Note of Oxfam Australia Board Meeting – 14 February 2020**

The Oxfam Australia (OAU) board met in Melbourne on Friday 14 February as a full complement except for one board member who was away overseas. We welcomed Jane Torney who will spend a year with the OAU board under the Observership Program, the fourth observer to our board since the Program's inception. We also welcomed several new faces on the Executive Leadership Team.

The OAU board reserves significant time twice a year to considering major issues that impact on Oxfam's future and this was one such occasion, in which much of the day was given over to board discussion and input on OAU's Strategic Plan, to cover the period 2020 – 2026. The concurrent development of the Oxfam International Strategic Plan will influence the OAU Plan's orientation however the group spent time on how OAU will respond to circumstances within our own Australian and regional locality within themes such as economic, gender and climate justice. The new OAU Strategic Plan is scheduled for rolling out and public release before mid-2020.

Board business was covered in the directors meeting in the afternoon of 14 February. After formalities were dealt with, the board discussed the appointment of a chair designate to succeed Dennis Goldner when he steps down later this year. The board was delighted that a large field of outstanding quality had wished to be considered for the future chair role and is now close to making an appointment. The board expressed its appreciation for the work of the Selection Committee and Nominations Committee in pursuing this appointment. Readers are reminded that the Nominations Committee comprises a majority of external Community Advisers which adds an independent and wide view to the appointment of new board members.

The financial and related reports followed, covering financial performance and risks, a budgetary update, finalizing the closure of Oxfam Australia Trading, a discussion of the impact of the bushfires and a pleasing report on the progress of our Customer Relationship Management system, which is about to go live. The environment remains challenging and demanding of further change to the agency, a matter that Lyn Morgain, our Chief Executive, is alive to and acting on.

Next, Lyn provided her CE's report. It covered a wide gamut of matters that the CE is addressing including a discussion on the OAU operating model, the joint appeals mechanism which is under consideration for emergency appeals held in Australia, and an extensive discussion on Oxfam's climate strategy.

The Operational Plan update was given and then a Governance Committee report in which a recent board performance assessment and implications of proposed reforms to governance arrangements at the Oxfam International level were discussed. The board held its customary in camera session at the end in line with good board practice.

Dennis Goldner, Chair

February 2020.