



VESPIIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING #1 MINUTES

VESPIIA Limited
ACN: 672 324 546

DATE: 28 MAY 2025

LOCATION: GOOGLEMEETS

CHAIRING OFFICER: GREG WHITEHOUSE - VESPIIA CHAIR



OPENING AND WELCOME

- The meeting was opened by Chair Greg Whitehouse at 3:05 PM AWST.
- Greg acknowledged the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Whadjuk Noongar people, and paid respects to Elders past and present.
- Greg confirmed that VESPIIA was incorporated in November 2023 and this AGM satisfies the requirement under the Corporations Act and Constitution to hold a general meeting within 18 months of incorporation.



CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

- A quorum was confirmed with more than four full members present. This being the first AGM, there were no previous minutes to confirm.



ATTENDANCE

In attendance

- Shannon Hennessy – CEO & Secretary | VESPIIA
- Greg Whitehouse – Chair | VESPIIA
- Hannah Laws – Director | VESPIIA
- Lara Chambers – Director | VESPIIA
- Ruben Proud – Director | VESPIIA

Apologies

- Carlos Fortuna – Director | VESPIIA
- Steve Wickham – Director | VESPIIA
- Hon Dan Caddy MLC – Director | VESPIIA

Member attendance was recorded separately in the attendance register maintained by the Secretary and is available for inspection upon request.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ACTIVITY REPORT – NOTING

Greg Whitehouse advised that financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2025 and the annual report will be presented at the next AGM in September 2025 to meet ASIC and ACNC compliance requirements.



ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITY REPORT



CEO Shannon Hennessy delivered the Organisational Activity Report, highlighting:

- VESPIIA currently has over 40 members across professional and organisational categories.
- Five national roundtables have been conducted on topics including:
 - Transition from first response
 - Women in first response (held in both WA and SA)
 - Capability sharing between defence and emergency services
- These discussions have informed three issues of the Future Frontlines strategic papers, with a fourth upcoming focused on women in service.
- The Cadre of Padres project, led by Director Steve Wickham, has been initiated to support national coordination of chaplaincy in service.
- VESPIIA submissions have been provided to Senate inquiries, including those responding to national disaster management reviews.
- The Awards for Excellence program launched in September 2024, with recognition across 13 categories. Approximately 90 attendees joined in person, with additional participants via livestream. The program will continue in 2025.
- Planning is underway for the Future Frontlines Conference in October, which will also host the next round of the awards.
- Shannon encouraged member feedback on the Members Handbook and Code of Professional Conduct.
- The upcoming Research and Resource Library was introduced, along with a grant writing session planned as part of VESPIIA's professional development offerings.
- Members were invited to express interest in volunteering through the new Operational Committee.



SPECIAL RESOLUTION – AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

To ensure VESPIIA maintains eligibility under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) guidelines, we propose the inclusion of a formal charitable purpose clause within the Constitution. VESPIIA also has the opportunity under the ACNC guidelines to remove 'Limited' from the name of the Company.

Resolutions:

a. That the Constitution of VESPIIA Limited be amended to include the following charitable purpose clause: *The Veterans, Emergency Services & Police Industry Institute Australia (VESPIIA) is established as a not-for-profit charitable organisation with the primary purpose of advancing the security and safety of Australia and the Australian public. This is achieved by supporting individuals, staff, volunteers, and organisations that deliver services to veterans, emergency services personnel, police, and their families. VESPIIA contributes to public discourse by promoting or opposing changes to laws, policies, or practices, where such advocacy furthers its charitable objectives. All activities undertaken by VESPIIA are directed towards achieving these charitable objectives and are conducted in accordance with the requirements set out by the ACNC.*

Outcome: Passed unanimously (10 votes in favour).

b. Change of Company Name to Remove 'Limited':

That, subject to the approval of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), the name of the company be changed from 'VESPIIA Limited' to 'VESPIIA' by removing the word 'Limited' from the company's name.

Outcome: Passed unanimously (10 votes in favour).



// **BOARD COMPOSITION AND GOVERNANCE**

Greg noted that two board positions remain vacant. These will not be filled at this meeting. Instead, the Board will use the period before the September AGM to identify skill gaps—particularly in sponsorship and philanthropic development—and make appointments accordingly.

Current board appointees will be eligible to re-nominate at the next AGM.

// **GENERAL BUSINESS**

David Ballantyne commended VESPIIA's progress.

Lidia Hall outlined her role supporting digital resources for veteran and first responder communities and expressed alignment with VESPIIA's objectives.

Greg reaffirmed VESPIIA's commitment to remaining community-led and independent while working in collaboration with government and sector partners.

Shannon reminded members that renewals will be processed from 1 July, with both automatic and manual options available.

// **CLOSING AND NEXT STEPS**

Greg confirmed that the upcoming Future Frontlines Conference will take place in Perth in October and will focus on outcomes since the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. Members were encouraged to contribute ideas for the conference agenda.

Greg thanked all members, board directors, and stakeholders for their support over the past 18 months.

Shannon closed the meeting at 3:43 PM and invited members to contact her directly for follow-up engagement or feedback.

MINUTES PREPARED BY: SHANNON HENNESSY
DATE OF CIRCULATION: 6 JUNE 2025

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