



ISSUES RAISED AND DISCUSSED AT THE ANNUAL MEMBERS' FORUM

ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE, PERTH, SATURDAY 18 MAY 2024

The National Chairman welcomed 70 members to the Annual Members' Forum and reminded members that this was their meeting and a time to raise any issues of concern or suggestions for improvements. A summary of issues raised follows:

- The time taken by the Honours Secretariat between an award nomination and the approval of the award is not acceptable; some nearly four years.
- An explanation of the work performed by the Honours Secretariat on the award process. There can be no assumption that all nominations will receive an award.
- Increased nominations have not meant an increase in staff to process the nominations.
- There is a lack of knowledge by the general public about the Order of Australia; awards being in the media in competition to the Australia Day Awards does not help.
- The Governor-General established a Communications and Creativity Group to increase awareness and implement modern media processes to increase awareness of the Order of Australia.
- New IT process introduced by the Honours Secretariat has been introduced to expedite the nomination process.
- Possible increase in the number of Council meetings (currently four) to expedite final decisions on awards.
- Branches do actively promote the Order and some Branches have access to community groups to promote the Order.
- Welcoming processes for new awardees.
- The Association needs a marketing plan.
- The Board should consider appointing a Communications Officer to further promote the Order and the Association.
- Some Branches have a Cultural Diversity Officer to increase awareness of the Award throughout multicultural communities.
- There is an increase of awareness of the Foundation's Scholarship Programme within Australian Universities.
- The awarding of a Foundation Scholarship process was explained.
- A vote of thanks to the Perth Conference Committee was carried by acclamation.
- The appointment of the Auditor was explained.
- An outline of the current Strategic Plan, the content of the national website including the new resources section, the implementation of the Association's social media process including the management of the programme.
- Celebration proposals for 2025 (postage stamp and coin) and further announcements to come after discussions with the new Governor-General.
- The National President thanked the National Chairman and National Secretary for the work they do for the Board and the Association; this was carried by acclamation.

Graham Hyde OAM
National Secretary