

www.republic.org.au

## ARM TODAY

The Australian Republic Movement continues to go from strength to strength. It is the peak education and advocacy body for an Australian to serve as our Head of State and an Australian Republic.

Over the past twelve months, membership and support has grown with a notable increase in interest and sign-ups following the Coronation of King Charles III as Australians look to the future following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

ARM has members across Australia and around the world, from all political persuasions and walks of life, who are passionate about the future of Australia and the strengthening of our democracy by becoming an independent republic.

While other Constitutional matters were discussed this year, the ARM took the opportunity to review its operations and strategy to prepare for the years ahead.

In coming months, Members will be asked their views on a new Strategic Plan. The Plan will be the overarching strategy for ARM as we move into the next phase and hopefully to a new republic referendum in the not-too-distant future.

### We believe:

An Australian Head of State is our chance to bring the different strands of our history together in a shared vision for an Australia which truly represents who we are today. It's a chance to chart our own course.

We are a unique and successful multicultural country. We need someone who understands that to embody us, safeguard our Constitution, be a unifying symbol at home and represent us proudly abroad. Our Head of State should work for us full-time and be fully committed. They should be elected on merit, have the skills to do the job, be one of us, accountable to us and unwaveringly loyal to us.













Our new Strategic Plan will ask Members to endorse the following:

### Vision

An Australian Head of State.



To secure a referendum and deliver a campaign which achieves a double majority yes vote for an Australian republic.



- **Operations**: Manage a fit-for-purpose organisation capable of delivering our vision and mission.
- Parliamentary Relations: Advocate for an Australian Head of State.
- Engagement: Communicate to increase support for an Australian Head of State.

Equality







# CO-CHAIRS' REPORT



Nova Peris OAM OLY Co-Chair

The Australian Republic
Movement is a national
organisation. We have
members in every capital and
across our vast regions. We
want to start our report by
acknowledging the traditional
owners of the lands across
Australia and pay respects.

An Australian republic is for all Australians. Whether you have 65,000 years of connection to the lands and waters of our great nation or if you've just arrived and have chosen Australia as your home - we are all proud to belong. We are all in this together and want to create an even better nation for our children and grandchildren.

It's only when one of our children, someone who lives and breathes our way of life, and knows who we are at their core becomes our Head of State that we can truly embrace our own destiny and chart our own course - truly independent and ready to stand on our own two feet.

It's been an incredibly exciting and rewarding time since we took on the Co-Chair roles. With the National Committee, we have led a period of renewal for the ARM, built on the incredible foundations of leaders who have come before us.

With that in mind, we want to place on the record our deep thanks and gratitude for Peter FitzSimons who chaired the ARM over many years and put us in a great position to achieve our shared vision for an Australian republic.

We would also like to thank the members of the National Committee who served the ARM over the last twelve months. Their leadership and support as been vital to the organisation's success.

We thank our former National Director and CEO, Sandy Biar, too for his work and dedication during his tenure. We wish him well for his future endeavours.



With renewal comes a new direction for the Australian Republic Movement. Over the next few months, we will be developing and finalising a new Strategic Plan. The Plan will set for the first time a set of core values for the ARM. These values are those we want embodied by our Head of State and the republic, and it's only fitting for ARM to live by example.

The Plan also sets our Vision, Mission and Objectives which can be simply summarised as ensuring ARM is fit-for-purpose, strongly advocates and communicates to secure a referendum, produces a winning yes vote campaign and finally delivers an Australian as our Head of State.

We will be asking Members to consider and endorse the Plan at the Annual General Meeting later in the year.

It will be the overarching plan, with further tactical plans

linked to it to outline how it will be achieved.

With Sandy's departure, we have also welcomed a new National Director and CEO, Isaac Jeffrey. Isaac brings a wealth of political and campaign experience to the role, and a real passion for the republic.

Isaac and the National
Committee will be touring the
country next year for a series
of engagement sessions with
community leaders and
members of the voting public
to test and shape the
Australian People's Model for
an Australian Republic. The
People's Model can then be
put to a future referendum.

Finally, we want to thank our members, supporters and contributors - we couldn't do it without you - so thank you for your ongoing support and friendship! Together we will make history!

Regards, Nova and Craig.



Craig Foster AM
Co-Chair

# NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Isaac Jeffrey National Director and CEO

I am incredibly honoured to take on the role of National Director and CEO. I've been a member for many years, but a passionate supporter for even longer. I think the republic was the first thing I ever debated at school and the experience has always stayed with me as something I'd happily debate anytime, because I so deeply believe in it.

Back when I was at uni, a family friend who had had a few wines and wanted to have some fun, introduced me as the first President of Australia to Prime Minister John Howard. What came next was a true privilege - I got to debate the idea of an Australian republic with the sitting monarchist PM! We ended up agreeing to disagree (at least that's how I remember it anyway!)

I grew up out in Gunnedah in North West NSW and will always be a country boy at heart. Like a lot of bush kids, I had to leave town for university and then for work, but the regions will always be on my mind as the food and energy producers of our nation, and home of working class Aussies who just want to work hard and enjoy life - and give that and more to their kids.

I truly believe an Australian republic is the opportunity we've all been waiting for to reclaim our pride in our nation. Imagine the celebration of seeing one of our own taking the reins and proudly championing our community on the world stage.

An elected Head of State could be the little girl who grew up in Western Sydney whose parents fled war for a better life in Aus or the Indigenous guy from the NT who's worked hard all his life to provide for his family or the WA based working mum who knows what it's like to struggle with the cost of living.



Each of those Aussies understand our nation and would embody who we are as a people - certainly more than a rich aristocrat who lives in luxury on the other side of the world.

Support for a republic is at an all time high and our 2024 national tour will seek to capitalise on that by inviting all Australians to have a conversation about what the new system of government will mean for all Australians.

We are an apolitical and non-partisan organisation, and everyone is welcome to join the conversation on how we can strengthen our country and our democracy.

I want to thank the National Committee and our members for their support and faith in me to help deliver our campaign. I also want to thank Alita and Rachel who tirelessly and professionally staff our Head Office - they are amazing!

An Australian republic is about our community, our future and our Head of State. I can't wait to work with you to make it happen!

Regards, Isaac







### CURRENT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE



Nova Peris OAM OLY Co-Chair

Nova is an Olympic Gold Medalist, a Commonwealth Champion and first Aboriginal woman elected to Federal Parliament.



Craig Foster AM Co-Chair

Craig is a former professional athlete having represented the Australian National male football team, the Socceroos, 29 times including as Captain.



Meredith Doig OAM Vice-Chair

Meredith spent most of her career in the corporate world and then 15 years as a professional company director.



Nathan Hansford
Treasurer, Secretary and
ACT Convenor

Nathan is a management consultant with experience advising governments and corporates across Australia and around the world.



Marina Go
Executive Director

Marina Go is an experienced Chair and Non-Executive Director on ASX listed companies, private companies and not-for-profit organisations.



Adam Spencer
Executive Director

Breakfast radio host, science communicator, television comedian, Australia's best known mathematician, Adam has worn many hats.



**Tiffany O'Keefe Executive Director**(Until August 2023)



Executive Directors	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Meetings Attended	Apologies Received
Nova Peris	10	7	2
Craig Foster	10	10	N/A
Meredith Doig	10	10	N/A
Nathan Hansford	10	8	2
Marina Go	10	6	3
Adam Spencer	10	9	0
Tiffany O'Keefe	10	2	2

### CURRENT NATIONAL COMMITTEE



Michael Cooney
Youth Convenor
Michael's been a member
of the Australian Republic
Movement since he was 15
years old and brings a

passionate young voice.

Lee Ellison



Women's Network and SA
Convenor
Deborah's a long-time activist for an Australian republic through her involvement with both SA

**Deborah Crossing** 

and ACT Branches.

**Andrew Fraser** 



VIC Convenor
Lee has staffed for Members
and Senators of the
Commonwealth and
Victorian Parliaments,
including a Cabinet Minister.



**QLD Convenor**Andrew's a former journalist who was Queensland bureau chief of a national newspaper and a member of the Federal

Parliamentary Press Gallery.



Bodhi Hardinge
WA Convenor
Bodhi's a climate and
energy consultant turn
Policy Advisor to the WA
Government.



Hon Clare Martin AO
NT Convenor
Clare was the first Labor
Chief Minister of the
Northern Territory and its

first female Chief Minister.



TAS Convenor
Wendy was outraged by
Whitlam's dismissal and
disappointed by the failed
referendum in 1999, but
would love to see us
become a republic.

**Wendy Le Cornu** 



Evelyn Santoro
NSW Convenor
Evelyn is a keen
communicator, speaks three
languages and is immersed
in the not-for-profit
community sector.





Vic Alhadeff
Vic has dedicated his career to championing human rights causes, former Chair of Multicultural NSW.



Tarang Chawla
Tarang's a recovering
lawyer, storyteller,
campaigner and activist,
and the co-founder of Not
One More Niki.



Byron Fay
Byron's the Executive
Director of Climate 200, a
political strategist, and
former Paris Agreement
negotiator and adviser to
an Independent Senator.



**Anthony Lay** 

<sup>\*</sup>Term: October 2022 to October 2024, includes National Executive Directors. There will be elections for new state/territory Convenors in November 2023 which may in part change the leadership team.

Non-Executive Directors	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Meetings Attended	Apologies Received
Michael Cooney	4	4	N/A
Deborah Crossing	4	2	2
Lee Ellison	3	3	N/A
Andrew Fraser	4	3	1
Bodhi Hardinge	4	3	0
Clare Martin	3	2	0
Wendy Le Cornu	4	4	N/A
Evelyn Santoro	4	3	0
Vic Alhadeff	4	3	1
Tarang Chawla	4	2	1
Byron Fay	4	3	0
Anthony Lay	4	2	1
Tully Fletcher	1	1	N/A

Т

Т

Т

Г

# FORMER NATIONAL EXECUTIVE



Peter FitzSimons
Chair



**Tully Fletcher** Senior Deputy Chair



Meredith Doig OAM Junior Deputy Chair



Nathan Hansford
Treasurer, Secretary and
ACT Convenor



Andrew Fraser
Executive Director and
QLD Convenor



**Bodhi Hardinge Executive Director and WA Convenor** 



Alice Crawford
Executive Director



Michelle Wood

Executive Director

\*Term: October 2021 to October 2022



Executive Directors	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Meetings Attended	Apologies Received
Peter FitzSimons	9	8	1
Tully Fletcher	2	1	1
Meredith Doig	9	9	N/A
Nathan Hansford	9	9	N/A
Andrew Fraser	9	8	1
Bodhi Hardinge	9	9	N/A
Alice Crawford	9	0	2
Michelle Wood	5	3	1

# FORMER NATIONAL COMMITTEE



**Tony Hockey NSW Convenor** 



Deborah Crossing Women's Network and SA Convenor



Tristan Layton VIC Convenor



**Tim Storer** 



**Patrick McGorry** 



**Leanne Smith** 



Sera Yilmaz

\*Term: October 2020 to October 2022, includes Former National Executive Directors

Non-Executive Directors	Meetings Eligible to Attend	Meetings Attended	Apologies Received
Tony Hockey	1	1	N/A
Deborah Crossing	1	1	N/A
Tristan Layton	1	1	N/A
Tim Storer	1	1	N/A
Patrick McGorry	1	0	0
Sera Yilmaz	1	0	0
Leanne Smith	1	0	0

## HEAD OFFICE



**Isaac Jeffrey**National Director and CEO

Isaac has a background in government, small business, and public and government relations. He spent a decade in government holding roles which included Chief of Staff and Principal Private Secretary. He is a country boy at heart and a lifelong supporter of an Australian republic.

### **Alita Brydon** Head of Digital

Alita is best known as a viral content creator and for her work in online social movements. Her goal is to empower people and grow communities using the internet. She is also writer and podcaster, and has worked as a media spokesperson in lifestyle and FMCG.





Rachel Blazey
Membership Engagement Officer

Rachel's previously worked in corporate social responsibility due to her experience working with community groups, charities and not-for-profits driving numerous fundraising campaigns. She has served as an elected Councillor for Willoughby City Council and hopes to continue to drive positive change that is inclusive and better represents Australia today.

### Sandy Biar Former National Director and CEO

Sandy is the Former National Director and CEO of the ARM, having left the organisation in June 2023. We place on the record our deep thanks for his service, support and passion for the movement and wish him well for the future.



### FUTURE OUTLOOK

The Australian Republic Movement is in a sound financial position, however the National Committee and management are working to strengthen our financials.

In particular, we will be launching a new contributions program aimed at securing recurring and one-off donations from supporters and friends. We will be reviewing our membership categories and levels to ensure we remain financially secure, but also so we can build our reserves for the future republic referendum campaign.

The National Tour and engagement program, as well as future campaign outputs, will be significant expenses for ARM and we will be looking for support to deliver.

We will be looking to engage additional staffing resources to execute our strategic and operational plans.

There is strong support for a republic across the Federal Parliament. Results of other referenda may have an impact on willingness in the short-term, but we remain confident a republic referendum can be held in coming years - potentially within the next term of Parliament.

We will be working with the Federal Parliament and the State and Territory Parliaments on plans to ensure a practical and timely vote occurs embracing the will of the Australian people.

We are a bipartisan organis-

-ation and will work tirelessly to continue to build support across the Parliaments.

We will be conducting surveys of members, supporters and the public to gauge the level of support and to test our messaging and communications as we move towards a new vote.













The '99 campaign and others have renewed our purpose of ensuring the Australian people are at the heart of our movement. We will help shape the Australian People's Model of an Australian Republic.

Model of an Australian Republic.

It's not the Government's model or academics' or elites', or ARM's model. It will be the People's and ARM will simply be an enabler. We will help develop it, then help address questions about it and have a conversation with Aussies on the benefits of such a model. We will then deliver the campaign in the lead up to the referendum.

As depicted by the state and national flowers below, we are a truly national organisation with members and supporters throughout Australia. We will continue to engage nationwide from the beach to the bush, from the cities to the regions ensuring all Australians are part of the conversation to take ownership of our country and our future.

We will continue to engage our members and grow our membership and supporters lists. We encourage people to reach out to their networks and endorse the ARM asking friends and family to consider joining or contributing.

Finally, we will be reaching out to all supporters of an Australian republic to join forces to achieve our common goals. We'll be asking our friends who support the monarchist model to agree to run a positive campaign celebrating our nation, while debating the issues in good faith - rather than either side attacking the other. We all want what's best for Australia and the debate should reflect that.

Our Community. Our Future. Our Head of State.









# FINANCIAL REVIEW



### **Reviewer's Independence Declaration**

Australian Republic Movement For the year ended 30 June 2023

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2023, there have been:

- 1. no contraventions of the independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001; and
- 2. no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

Bernard Hardy Bonsella

Unit G10 Quayside 50 Eastlake Parade KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dated: 9 November 2023

## FINANCIAL REVIEW



### Reviewer's Report

### Australian Republic Movement For the year ended 30 June 2023

#### Independent Reviewers Report to the members of the company

We have reviewed the accompanying financial report of Australian Republic Movement (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position, the statement of profit and loss or other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year ended, and the notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

#### Director's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of Australian Republic Movement is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the Corporations Act 2001 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Reviewer's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2415 Review of a Financial Report: Company Limited by Guarantee or an Entity Reporting under the ACNC Act or Other Applicable Legislation or Regulation, in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report does not satisfy the requirements Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures including: giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date; and complying with the Corporations Act 2001. ASRE 2415 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the review of the financial report

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

#### Conclusion

Based on our review, which is not an audit, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial report of Australian Republic Movement does not satisfy the requirements of *Corporations Act 2001* including:

- (a) Giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and the Corporations Act 2001.

### Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our conclusion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Company's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Corporations Act 2001*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Bernard Hardy
Bonsella
Unit G10 Quayside
50 Eastlake Parade
KINGSTON ACT 2604

Dated: 9 November 2023 \*Trimmed to fit to page.





### **Australian Republic Movement**

ABN: 29 094 419 619

PO Box 431 Canberra ACT 2601

0423 876 813 info@republic.org.au

@AusRepublic: Facebook | Twitter LinkedIn | Instagram



