



## MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SUPPORT ACT LIMITED

HELD AT THE OFFICES OF APRA AMCOS, 16 MOUNTAIN STREET, ULTIMO NSW  
2007 ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023, AT 12.15PM

### Notice of meeting

The Notice of Meeting, dated 14 November 2023, was read by the Secretary, who confirmed that the Notice also provided links to the Support Act website where members could access:

- A copy of the meeting notice and agenda
- Minutes of the previous AGM
- The Statement of Accounts, Directors' Report and Auditor's Report for the year ended 30 June 2023
- An application for election as a Music Industry Director of the Company, and
- A proxy form

Lynne Small welcomed the attendees to the meeting, including members and non-members and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting is held and expressed thanks and respect to elders, past and present, and welcomed any First Nations attendees to the meeting.

### Apologies and Proxies

#### Apologies:

Robbie Porter (Ordinary Member)

#### Proxies:

Jane English  
Richard Moore  
Veronica Tooker  
Linda Courtney

### Members present

Ms Small confirmed that a quorum of members was present, being:

Lynne Small  
David Albert  
Tom Larkin

Karin Lines  
John O'Donnell  
Jacqueline Purcell  
John Watson  
Robyn Jelleff  
Leah Flanagan  
Clive Miller  
Lisa Smith  
Cath Haridy

**The following non-members were also in attendance:**

William Oui  
Brett Drayton  
Victoria Webber  
Ash King  
Angela Doolan  
Tim Coutts-Smith  
Helen Lear  
Willem Brussen  
Sarah Lay  
Mel Morris  
Cooper-Lily Nikora  
Gemma Iacobaccio  
Matt McDevitt

**1. Confirmation of the 2022 minutes**

David Albert proposed that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 December 2022 be confirmed and carried as a correct record of the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Watson and carried unanimously.

**2. Resolution to receive the Directors' Report, Statement of Account and Auditor's Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023**

The Secretary referred to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 which have been subject to independent audit by KPMG. Attending members were invited to raise any questions or comments that they may have in relation to these reports.

With no questions raised, Karin Lines proposed that the Director's Report, Auditor's Report, Financial Statements and accompanying notes for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, as circulated, be received and adopted. The motion was seconded by John O'Donnell and carried unanimously.

**3. Resolution to appoint four Members to the category of Music Industry Director**

The Secretary advised that, in accordance with the Constitution of the Company, the current two-year term of each of the four elected Music Industry Directors, being Alethea Beetson, David Albert, John Watson and Tom Larkin, ends at this meeting. Ms Small noted that all four of these Directors are eligible for re-appointment, however, Alethea Beetson has advised of her resignation. With three Directors standing for re-appointment and no new nominations for election as a Music Industry Director received, no election is required and David Albert,

John Watson and Tom Larkin are re-appointed to their Music Industry Director roles, with a casual vacancy remaining, to be filled by the Board over the coming months.

#### **4. Resolution to appoint the auditors for the year ended 30 June 2024**

The Secretary noted that it was the Board's recommendation that the incumbent auditors, KPMG, be reappointed for the year ending 30 June 2024. David Albert proposed a resolution that KPMG be reappointed for that period. This was seconded by Jacqueline Purcell and carried unanimously.

#### **5. Chairperson's Report**

David Albert addressed the meeting and began by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which the meeting is held and paying his respect to elders, past, present and emerging. Mr Albert noted that this AGM marks one year since he and Ms Small became Co-Chairs of Support Act after Sally Howland stepped down from her Chair role at the 2022 AGM.

Mr Albert discussed Support Act's growing prominence and role in the industry, noting the attendance of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Anthony Albanese MP and Minister for the Arts, the Honourable Tony Burke MP, at Support Act's Music in the House event in 2022. Mr Albert also noted recent significant industry developments including the announcement of the REVIVE policy, the establishment of the Centre for Creative Workplaces and subsequent appointment of Kate Jenkins as Chair, as well as the appointment of Millie Millgate as Director of Music Australia.

Mr Albert remarked that while COVID-19 has still been present, the past year wasn't as COVID influenced as previous years, however our industry and organisation are now facing new hurdles, such as increased cost of living pressures.

Mr Albert spoke to Support Act's financial result for the year ended 30 June 2023, noting that revenue for the year of \$3.8million was significantly lower than the prior year, \$35.5million, which was due to time limited COVID-19 Government Grant funding now being fully exhausted. Mr Albert noted that Support Act's healthy balance sheet has allowed for investment in the organisation's fundraising program and IT infrastructure during the financial year, which netted a deficit result of \$1.4million.

Mr Albert noted that during the financial year, crisis relief support valued at more than \$2.3million was provided to over 900 music and live performing arts workers and that included in this figure is 550 grants valued at just under \$1.2million, funded by the New South Wales State Government, that were provided to service users whose ability to work in music and live performing arts was impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Albert also advised that within these crisis relief figures, 51 First Nations service users were supported with grants valued at more than \$125k. Also noted by Mr Albert was Tax Help grant support provided to ten service users during the financial year.

Mr Albert informed the meeting that during the financial year, 364 callers to Support Act's Wellbeing Helpline were supported with 1,544 counselling hours.

Mr Albert acknowledged the following significant donors:

- APRA AMCOS
- ARIA PPCA
- The Tony Foundation
- Sony Global Social Justice Fund
- JB HIFI

- Hilltop Hoods – who have contributed more than \$500k to Support Act through the donation of royalties from their song “I’m Good”

In addition to these significant contributions, Mr Albert credited Clive and his team on the strong government relations that have now been formed which provides Support Act with stability going forward. Mr Albert also noted the fundraising from significant events and campaigns throughout the financial year, specifically Music in the House in 2022 which honoured Midnight Oil with the Excellence in the Community Award and raised \$162k and Ausmusic T-Shirt Day 2022, which raised \$642k.

Mr Albert remarked on the significant amount of work in the Mental Health and Wellbeing space during the financial year, specifically noting the launch of the Mentally Healthy Workplaces program in June 2023 and the increased involvement at BIGSOUND, which included the launch of Support Act’s Minimum Standards for a Mentally Healthy Music Industry.

Mr Albert discussed Support Act’s First Nations programming, noting specifically the importance of Support Act’s First Nations Strategic Plan which was launched at Music in the House in 2022, the launch of the Voices Amplified Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training at Music in the House 2023 and the continued delivery of Yarning Strong. Mr Albert voiced his extreme disappointment at the outcome of the recent referendum to decide on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, while noting that he was proud of Support Act’s position and messaging and the ongoing role that the organisation will play as a result of the outcome.

Mr Albert recognised the significant IT infrastructure project work that had taken place during the financial year, noting specifically the upgrade of the finance system and donor database.

Finally, Mr Albert acknowledged the significant contributions of the Directors whose tenures are coming to an end at this AGM or at the end of the year, thanking Karin Lines, John O’Donnell, Alethea Beetson, Millie Millgate and Jonathan Carter for their care and expertise during their time as members of the Board. Mr Albert also thanked his continuing Board colleagues and Support Act stakeholders.

## **6. To transact any other business which may be brought forward in conformity with the Constitution of the Company.**

Having completed all matters of ordinary business Ms Small invited those present to raise any items of general business for discussion. No items were raised.

## **7. Closure**

There being no further business, the Secretary thanked all members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12:37pm.