

**MINUTES**  
**Digital Rights Watch Inc. (the Association)**  
**Annual General Meeting**

**Date and time:** 2 – 2:45pm, 8 March 2016

**Location:** Save the Children offices, Level 6, 232 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne VIC

**Attending:** Angela Daly (remote), Tim Norton (Chairperson), Leanne O'Donnell, Lizzie O'Shea (remote), Nic Suzor, Suzy Wood. *Quorate.*

**Observing:** Tom (Thoughtworks), Tim (Liberty Victoria), Oscar Coleman, Brett Solomon, others.

**Apologies:** Nick Jaffe, Chris Berg, Amy Gray

**Business of the meeting:**

1. Elections to the Board

Nominations had been received to fill the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and ordinary members.

As one member had been nominated for each position, the Chairperson declared each position filled by its respective nominee in accordance with clause 52(2) and 53(3) of the Constitution of the Association. Accordingly, the Chairperson declared the following elections:

- Tim Norton: President of the Association
- Nic Suzor: Vice-President of the Association
- Suzy Wood: Secretary of the Association
- Amy Gray: ordinary member
- Nic Jaffe: ordinary member
- Chris Berg: ordinary member
- Lizzie O'Shea: ordinary member

2. Introduction to the business of the Association

The Chairperson provided an introduction to the business of the Association, including the following points:

- The impetus for the formation of the Association was a number of public meetings that had taken place in late 2015 on the state of digital rights in Australia.
- A small group of individuals present at those meetings had formed the Association for the purpose of drawing together advocacy groups, civil society organisations and interested individuals to strategically and effectively campaign for digital rights in Australia.
- Membership of the Association would be open to the public, and free of charge and by way of application. Members would be entitled to attend, submit items of business for consideration and cast a vote at meetings of the Association.
- The current members of the Board of the Association had prepared a guiding proposal document for presentation to potential funders and supporters.
- Once funding had been secured, the Association intended to hire staff in accordance with its draft organisational structure.
- The Association's application for charity status was currently under review.

3. Launch of website

The Chairperson announced the launch of the Association's website.

#### 4. Timeline for activities

The Chairperson presented the proposed timeline for activities of the Association as per the draft timeline circulated to the members.

#### 5. Presenting first campaign

The Chairperson announced that the first campaign would take the form of a series of “watchlist” newsletters to be emailed to subscribers and made available on the Association's website.

The newsletters would provide accessible digests on relevant policy issues, including the following:

- Mandatory data retention
- Access to telecommunications data
- Encryption technologies
- Biometric data collection
- Website blocking laws
- Content censorship decision-making on social media
- The Office of the Australian Information Commissioner
- The Year of Digital Inclusion
- Fair use of copyright materials

#### 6. Questions

Observers asked questions of the Board of the Association on the following matters:

- How the Association would measure its impact in the first 18 months of activity.
- Whether the concept of “e-democracy” would be a focus for the Association.
- Whether the Association would adopt a reference committee to advise on policy and strategy matters.
- Whether the Association would help to deliver education and technical assistance to civil society activists to protect their security.
- Whether the Association would seek or accept staff secondments from existing partner organisations.
- Whether the Association intended on obtaining funding from businesses with a key interest in the areas of the Association's activities.
- Whether the Association would make a submission to the Productivity Commission on the matter of a fair use exception to copyright infringement.

The attendees and observers discussed these matters. No resolutions were passed.

The meeting concluded at approximately 2:45pm.