

Minutes of Meeting of the ICJV Executive

Held: 5.15pm
Tuesday 14 February 2017
Purves Rm
Level 25
Gadens Lawyers
200 Bourke Street, Melbourne

Attendees: Bromberg J; Glenn McGowan QC; Lucy Line; Shannon Finegan; Campbell Thomson; Matthew Albert; Isabelle Skaburskis; Patricia Pais, Julie Peet, Alexander Magee.

AGENDA

	Agenda Topic	Speaker
	Apologies Carlo Dellora, Louis Coutts, Michael Cahill	
	Student Project Shannon states is on hold, will discuss with Isabelle to produce a new plan.	Finegan
	OLY 2017 recap and OLY 2018 organisation Positive feedback from Pagone J, and a number of other people. Only neutral feedback was that 9am entrance for a 9:30 start was too long. This is noted, and will be incorporated into next year's event.	McGowan
	Annual Fundraising Dinner 2017 Need to build the event around the speaker; discussion about the former Chief Justice, or the newest member of the HCA; the key is to get someone people won't hear otherwise elsewhere; we will pay airfares but not pay for their appearance as it defeats the purpose of raising funds for the event.	McGowan
	Request for Support of Jenny Hocking re 'The Palace Letters' Held over	McGowan

	<p>Indonesian Bar Reader 2017</p> <p>This was a success in 2016; the reader was keen to make contact with groups in Vic and make networks; he was keen to return to Jakarta and find another candidate; we don't need to be limited to sourcing the reader from the same organisation as last time; perhaps we should establish a subcommittee to organise this year's reader.</p>	<p>McGowan</p>
	<p>ICJV Constitution Update</p> <p>Not addressed – Lucy Line has been in correspondence with Tony about advancing this project and Glenn McGowan will meet with Tony in the near future to discuss updating the constitution.</p>	<p>Lang</p>
	<p>Sri Lankan Evidence Gathering Project</p> <p>A successful event in mid 2016 (around May), with people attending from Sydney; there were some issues with Sydney funding the event. The Sydney people insisted that the evidence taking occurred on computers that were not linked to the internet and two people attended from Sydney to monitor the event, which Campbell questions whether was necessary, given there are plenty of people in Melbourne who can take statements. For the next event, we need female interpreters and female statement takers.</p> <p>It seemed that if we were to be part of Sydney's project, they wanted to supervise it. This was one of their conditions.</p> <p>There are no plans for the next phase – nothing has been organised. Campbell will be in Melbourne for the next 6 months and is willing to see whether this can continue.</p> <p>If there is a UN sanctioned tribunal in Sri Lanka, the statements will be used. They won't be used for an internal Sri Lankan proceeding.</p> <p>Isabelle questions whether we could work on evidence gathering for Syrian refugees. We could have a new project independent from ICJ Australia or choose to work with them on this. Isabelle knows different organisations are gathering evidence regarding the Syrian human rights abuses.</p> <p>Matthew suggests that this could be something for a student project, however Lucy points out this would need to be handled carefully so students are not traumatised. There was an issue last year where one of the students needed counselling after their involvement. We have to be alive to this risk.</p>	<p>Thomson</p>

	<p>Succession planning – positions available on the executive</p> <p>A new Media Liaison Officer is required and a new Secretary General will be required from the beginning of June. The position of Chair is also available.</p>	<p>McGowan</p>
	<p>DFAT – NGO Meeting on Human Rights, Canberra</p> <p>Shannon was the ICJV delegate to the DFAT NGO forum on Human Rights in Canberra on 9 February 2017. It included discussion on the rights of indigenous people, DFAT’s foreign policy white paper, business and human rights and Australia’s international human rights engagement. Additionally, Australia is running as a candidate to the Human Rights Council. DFAT would like Australians to endorse their application – we should consider this.</p> <p>Shannon circulated a report from the information that she gathered while at the conference.</p> <p>Shannon will ensure a version of her report is also added to the ICJV website.</p> <p>We could consider making a submission to the DFAT white paper.</p> <p>If we are to make a submission, Shannon recommends we make a brief submission on the rule of law. The question is, what would we ask DFAT to do, consistently with our organisation’s goals?</p> <p>Justice Bromberg explains that the Federal Court of Australia has made a submission.</p> <p>The deadline is coming up very soon, on 28 February 2017, so if we make a submission we will need to act quickly.</p> <p>There is concern that DFAT has had its funding cut for rule of law projects.</p> <p>Shannon will get in touch with the Archie Roach foundation and guide it through the grant process for the grants for Indigenous groups that DFAT can give.</p> <p>Discussion ensued as to what kind of submission we could make, relevantly to the focus of the white paper.</p> <p>Bromberg J explained the Federal Court is involved in seeking to assist judges in the region, such as Indonesia, having professional integrity in the judiciary. Issues about the integrity of the profession need to be dealt with not just with judges but also with the wider legal profession. This could tie in with our Indonesian bar reader assistance – we discussed this with our bar reader. If DFAT is promoting the rule of law, we could draw this to their attention – encouraging stronger democratic judicial and legal institutions in the region. We could ask DFAT to fund an expanded version of our Indonesian bar reader program.</p>	<p>Finegan</p>

11.	General Business Discussion about Lou Coutts' email dated 13 February 2017 to the ICJV. Discussion about strategy and potential activities of the ICJV in 2017.	
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ICJV meetings in 2017 are scheduled for the following dates:

- 14 Mar
- 11 Apr
- 9 May
- 13 Jun
- 11 Jul
- 8 Aug
- 12 Sep
- 10 Oct
- 14 Nov