

SA LIVED EXPERIENCE LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY NETWORK INC (LELAN):

Notice of AGM, Proposed Changes to the LELAN Constitution and Board
Member Nominations

November 2019

Contact Details:

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Notice of Annual General Meeting and Proposed Constitution Changes:

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The LELAN Board wish to advise that the first Annual General Meeting of the SA Lived Experience Leadership and Advocacy Network Inc [ABN 98 469 662 123] has been set.

Date: Monday December 2nd, 2019

Time: 6-7.30pm

Venue: 60 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide (SA Mental Health Commission Building)

RSVP: via this [link](#)

The order of business at the meeting shall be:

1. Confirmation of minutes of *Special General Meeting* held in March 2019
2. Consideration of the accounts and reports of the Board
3. The election of three Board members
4. Any other business requiring consideration by the association in general meeting

For any enquiries please email info@lelan.org.au .

Request for Board Member Nominations

LELAN currently has three Board Director vacancies and members of the organisation are invited to nominate for these positions. The vacancies are for two general members and a chairperson. If more nominations are received than vacancies exist a ballot will be held.

People seeking election to the Board must be an *individual member* or an *individual carer and ally member* of the association and not be a permanent employee or have accumulated six months or more of continuous contractual engagement with the association.

The Board meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month 6-8pm at an Adelaide CBD location. No Board meeting is held in December. Board members also participate in yearly organisational development and strategic planning activities that are usually held on a Saturday in January or February.

Nominations to be a Board member close Monday November 25th, 2019 at 1pm. The form for nomination can be accessed [here](#) or by emailing info@lelan.org.au .

Notice of *Special Resolution* to Change the LELAN Constitution

A *special resolution* to make changes to LELAN's constitution, in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, will be made at the AGM. It is intended that the following motion be proposed as a *special resolution*:

That the current Constitution of SA Lived Experience Leadership and Advocacy Network Inc (LELAN) be repealed and the proposed new Constitution attached to the notice of the meeting of the members of LELAN, be adopted as the Constitution of LELAN.

The new Constitution showing all proposed changes in yellow highlight can be accessed [here](#). Changes have been made to clauses relating to subscription (membership) fee's and the role of the chairperson only.

By way of summary, the LELAN Board is proposing these amendments to make explicit core rules of the organisation that have thus far been implicitly known to people involved in the organisations founding and first year of operation as an incorporated association. **The proposed changes update the Constitution to ensure it aligns with the intent, purpose and core focus for which the association was established and describes current practice for collection of membership fees.**

Information about Special Resolutions

Under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1985*, a *special resolution* is required to change the Constitution of an organisation. For a *special resolution* to be valid, the *special resolution* must be passed by at least 75% of the votes cast by members entitled to vote (whether by members present at the AGM or by proxy).

The *Associations Incorporation Act 1985* can be accessed [here](#) if you would like to read more.

Proxy Voting Form

You are warmly invited to attend the AGM, however we understand that this may be challenging for people for many reasons. **If you cannot attend, you may cast your vote on the above *special resolution* by appointing a proxy to vote on your behalf. The proxy form can be accessed [here](#).**

A proxy must be a Member who is entitled in their own right to attend and vote at any general meeting of the association. The LELAN Chairperson will be allocated as the proxy for people who are unable to attend the AGM.

Action Required from You

We encourage you to please complete the following voluntary actions to assist in the further development of LELAN as an organisation:

- Vote on the *special resolution* to amend the [LELAN Constitution](#), either by attending the AGM in person or by completing the [proxy](#) question
- Let us know if you can/cannot attend the AGM by completing the RSVP found [here](#)
- Vote in the Board election if more nominations than current vacancies are received (an email will be sent on Monday November 25th with further information)

You may also wish to nominate to become a Board Director. This may be done via this [form](#) or by requesting a copy via info@lelan.org.au. Nominations to be a Board member close Monday November 25th, 2019 at 1pm.

If you have any questions please contact Ellie Hodges, LELAN Executive Director, via ehodges@lelan.org.au or 0422 888 157.

... with heart,

Ellie Hodges (Executive Director)

Board Member Responsibilities and Nomination:

*The board of an organisation has an important role to play. **The board is a collection of individuals (board members) that form the ‘leadership group’ of an organisation. The board is primarily responsible for governing, overseeing the affairs of, and making strategic decisions for an organisation and on behalf of its members. ...***

There are four main legal duties all board members must comply with and understand and board members who breach these duties may be held personally liable (legally responsible) for their breach. The duties are:

- *Duty to act in good faith and for proper purposes*
- *Duty to act with care, skill and diligence*
- *Duty not to dishonestly use position or information*
- *Duty to avoid conflicts of interest*

[[Fact Sheet](#): Introduction to the Board Member Role for New Board Members by Not-for-profit Law]

LELAN’s Constitution, the ‘rules’ of the organisation, can be accessed by clicking this [link](#).

Commitment Required from LELAN Board Members

The LELAN Board meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month 6-8pm at an Adelaide CBD location. No Board meeting is held in December. Board members also participate in yearly organisational development and strategic planning activities that are usually held on a Saturday in January or February.

As well as attendance at Board Meeting’s there will be additional out-of-session communication (requiring one to two hours per month). If Board Members are a part of the Executive Group – Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Treasurer or Secretary – more time will be required (an additional two-four hours per month). **Outside of these minimum time commitments, Board members will be invited to play active roles in the work activities of the organisation to the extent that the Board member wishes, and their lives allow.**

Board Member Eligibility and Skillset

As an organisation LELAN is *by, for and with* people with personal lived experience (consumers) and values the support of carers, allies, other people and organisations who join us in making a difference for how mental health issues are understood and supported in our state.

All LELAN Board members must have personal lived experience (consumer) of mental health issues or have experience as a carer of someone with mental health issues. We are committed to inclusion and accessibility for people with lived experience and welcome Board membership of people with: broad distress or mental health experiences (including psychosocial disability); diverse cultural backgrounds (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people); gender or sexually diverse identities (including trans and non-binary); and/or other disabilities.

To ensure good governance, meeting legal obligations and supporting the growth and development of LELAN to be a strong independent and sustainable organisation additional skill sets are sought by some Board members. These additional skill sets may be for a person who has: experience as a current practicing lawyer; financial or accounting qualifications; marketing, communications or media experience; governance and/or Board experience; policy, organisational development and/or strategic leadership experience; and so forth.

Nominating to be a LELAN Board Member

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People seeking election to the Board must be an *individual member* or an *individual carer and ally member* of the association and not be a permanent employee or have accumulated six months or more of continuous contractual engagement with the association.

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Nominations to be a Board member close Monday November 25th, 2019 at 1pm. The form for nomination can be accessed [here](#) or by emailing info@lelan.org.au .

If you would like to have a confidential conversation regarding Board membership, LELAN's work or other areas of interest contact Ellie Hodges, Executive Director, via ehodges@lelan.org.au or 0422 888 157.

LELAN Background:

Who We Are

LELAN aims to be a strong, independent and sustainable organisation fulfilling the role of a peak body *by, for and with* people with personal lived experience of mental health issues (consumers). We value the support of carers, allies, other people and organisations who join us in making a difference for how mental health issues are understood and supported in our state.

Our History

LELAN was founded in 2017 to provide a way for people with lived experience of distress or mental health issues to have a voice and collectively influence change in South Australia.

For the first eighteen months LELAN relied on the passion and commitment of lived experience leaders as well as support and partnerships with other organisations.

In October 2018 LELAN developed a Constitution and submitted forms to become an *Incorporated Association*. Our first funding was granted in early 2019 and the first paid staff member commenced in July 2019. Since that time other funding opportunities have been explored, successfully, and fee-for-service activity has occurred.

Our Purpose and Areas of Focus

LELAN's purpose is to amplify the voice, influence and leadership of people with lived experience to drive systemic change.

The organisation has three areas of focus:

1. developing the capability and influence of people with lived experience
2. nurturing organisational and sector capacity for engaging with people with lived experience, and
3. impacting system improvement agendas to benefit people with lived experience

Further information can be accessed on the [website](#) or by speaking with Ellie Hodges, Executive Director, via ehodges@lelan.org.au or 0422 888 157.