

**Research Infrastructure Support Services Ltd
ABN 19 126 324 141**

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RISS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

Agenda Item – Chairman’s Report

1. Introduction

RISS Ltd commenced operations, effectively, in November 2007. This first Annual General Meeting is occurring close to the end of the first year of operations. The primary task for the Board in the first year has been to establish the Company operations and future directions and to develop and implement RISS programs.

The Board’s main focus has therefore been to:

- Put in place sound governance and accountability processes;
- Develop a RISS program structure
- Obtain funding for its program activities from DEST and subsequently DISR
- Advertise for applications and distribute the first round of grant funding, and
- Develop a three year Strategic Plan

2. Governance and Accountability mechanisms

RISS commenced with a three member Board, comprising:

- Mr Robert Anderson,
- Mr Gavin Wiggington, and
- Mr Terry Slater

Following the resignation of Mr Wiggington as RISS Ltd commenced operations the Board sought to add additional scientific and public health expertise to direct the companies operations. Three additional Board members were added over the first four months as follows:

- Ms Jennifer Morawska, who also has undertaken the role of Chief Executive Officer for the first year of operations;
- Dr George Morstyn, and
- Ms Elizabeth Furler, Deputy Secretary, Department of Education, South Australia.

The Board has placed great emphasis on ensuring its decision making processes are truly independent and fully accountable. Board members have been assigned to head up key company responsibilities and structures to achieve this objective.

RISS Expert Advisory Committee on Applications (REAC)

Dr George Morstyn is the Board member responsible for heading an independent expert Committee to assess the merits of applications and their suitability for RISS funding.

External membership includes Professor Richard Fox, Melbourne University; and Ms Merryn Hagan, GMP expert.¹

Audit Committee

Rob Anderson is the Board member heading the RISS audit Committee to oversee compliance with the Corporations Act requirements and financial accountability standards and reporting provisions.

RISS Cellular Therapies Industry Advisory and Consultative Committee (IACR)

Ms Elizabeth Furler is the Board member responsibility for Industry sector consultative arrangements.

3. RISS Programs and Funding

RISS agreed a four program structure to deliver its mission and objectives.

- Grants for the maintenance of existing GMP licenses from the TGA for cellular therapies research capabilities
- Funding for 'gap analyses' to obtain TGA licenses for GMP in the area of cellular therapies to increase Australia GMP approved research capacity.
- Funding of researcher access to GMP licensed facilities, and
- Promotion of cellular research capabilities to increase both access to and utilisation of Australia's research capacity.

DISR has allocated \$7.6m over four years for RISS activities. In its year RISS has approved grants and funding of \$0.9m and is about to commence its second round of funding grants (November 2008).

4. Strategic Plan

RISS has developed its first 3 year strategic plan which has been submitted to DISR along with its business plan for 2008/09 for approval

Terry Slater
Chairman
22 May 2008

¹ The initial version of this document incorrectly reported that Ms Rita Maclachlan Head of TGAs' Office of Blood, Tissues and Devices served on the RISS Expert Advisory Committee.