

## 1323<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW

### Minutes

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The 1323<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of the Royal Society of NSW took place by webinar on Wednesday, 3 July 2024, commencing at 6:30 pm.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The President, Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN presided at the meeting. She welcomed Members and guests. Apology: Dr Donald Hector, Secretary.

**2. MINUTES OF THE 1320<sup>th</sup> ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Minutes of the 1322<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary General Meeting will be reviewed at the next face-to-face meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 August at the State Library of NSW.

**3. CONFIRMATION OF NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Council has not met since the last OGM, so there are no candidates to be announced for Members' consideration at this meeting.

**4. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

The President reported that Council has not met since the last OGM on 5 June but has continued to advance the five programs being delivered under the Society's 2024 – 2029 Master Plan. The plan is available in summary form on the Society's website. Members are encouraged to read it and to be in touch if willing to contribute to the work.

One important aspect of the program is a proposal by the Council to engage in a consultation process with members to consider reviewing the criteria for Fellowship. The Council looks forward to members' input.

**5. OPEN LECTURE**

**“Social Justice and Health Equity”**

**Professor Sir Michael Marmot CH FRCP FFPHM FMedSci FBA**

**Professor of Epidemiology and  
Director, UCL Institute of Health Equity  
University College London**

Taking action to reduce health inequalities is a matter of social justice. In developing strategies for tackling health inequalities, we need to confront the social gradient in health not just the difference between the worst off and everybody else. There is clear evidence when we look across countries that national policies make a difference and that much can be done in cities, towns, and local areas. But policies and interventions must not be confined to the health care system; they need to address the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age. The evidence shows that economic circumstances are important but are not the only drivers of health inequalities. Tackling the health gap will take action, based on sound evidence, across the whole of society.

**About the speaker**

**Sir Michael Marmot** has been Professor of Epidemiology at University College London since 1985 and is Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity. He is the author of *The Health Gap: The Challenge of an Unequal World* (Bloomsbury: 2015), and *Status Syndrome* (Bloomsbury: 2004). He is a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (2019),

and co-Director of the of the CUHK Institute of Health Equity. He is the recipient of 20 honorary doctorates. Marmot has led research groups on health inequalities for nearly 50 years. He chaired the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health, WHO Regional Commissions, and reviews on tackling health inequality for UK governments. He is former President of the British Medical Association (2010–2011), and former President of the World Medical Association (2015). He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences. In 2000, he was knighted by, for services to epidemiology and the understanding of health inequalities. He was appointed a Companion of Honour for services to public health in the UK 2023 New Year Honours.

**6. VOTE OF THANKS**

The vote of thanks was given by the President.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**8. CLOSE**

The President closed the meeting at 7:45 pm.

The minutes were recorded by the President.

Signed as a true record  
Dr Susan Pond AM FRSN  
President