

## **FCAT General Meeting Minutes**

**The Grange, Campbell Town, Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

### **Attendance**

Lynne Watson	Fiona Moore	Mat O'Brien
Hannah Knowles	Bert Aperloo	Judith Hearn
Tahlia Norris	Mark Mason	Stephen Hansen
Georgia Geard	Stuart Carnaby	Ross Mackenzie
Marguerite Smith	James Davis	Ron Grassl
Kelly Jennings	Danielle Slade	Stephanie Lovell
Carol Giizel	Wendy James	Terry Howard
		Jacinta Morris

### **Apologies**

Paul	Briant
Steve Curtis	Roland Chugg
Lauren Matthews	Anthony Plisek
Tina Johnston	Rhett McKenzie-Edwards
Elizabeth Skirving	Chantal Filgate
Sandra Neil	John Dunbar
Linda Groombridge	

Meeting opened by James 11:05am

### **Minutes of the last meeting**

No comments. Moved by James, seconded by Fiona.

### **Business arising from minutes**

Nil. Minutes of last meeting accepted.

### **FCAT Professional Supervision Policy**

In November 2020 FCA introduced a national policy for the professional supervision of financial counsellors in Australia.

FCAT has developed a companion policy that summarises the national policy and articulates how the policy is to be implemented by FCAT. The FCAT policy has been prepared by a working group consisting Tony Doyle, Danielle Slade, Fiona Moore and Ross Mackenzie.

As a member you will be familiar with the current process of providing the Association with a return of your professional supervision activities for the preceding calendar year. These new standards are being adopted part way through the calendar year, therefore in order to provide members with a smooth transition to the new standards, the existing standards will not be applied to the 2021 return for professional supervision.

Notwithstanding this approach, members are encouraged to adopt the new standards as soon as possible and definitely prior to the end of 2021.

The FCAT Professional Supervision Policy was sent to members 18 July for feedback by Friday 13 August.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that members approve the FCAT Professional Supervision Policy.

Draft was distributed and questions submitted have been answered, there were no changes required.

Review of two face sheets provided. Discussion points as follows;

- Gaps/issues identified during supervision that require reporting to the agency would be rare and would be covered during line supervision with employee and agency line manager. The line manager has a peripheral role in regards to professional supervision.

- Three way supervision agreements clarification – between the agency and external supervisor, to be further clarified re Anglicare agency three way supervision agreements
- Is there a conflict of interest if supervisor is an office bearer of FCAT – no conflict of interest.
- List of approved supervisors are available on FCA website. You can add a supervisor to the list in the other category e.g. Lawyer.
- Query re when a member moves from associate to full member, or changes working hours from full/part time during a membership year and the hours required for supervision – the hours requirement is set by the national standard, can be further discussed with supervisor/FCAT.
- Clarification re associate members requiring 10 one to one supervision hours and full members can have a mix of one to one and group and other.
- The new policy commences Jan 1 2022.
- Clarification under which circumstances a supervisor can be removed – misconduct as determined by the committee.
- Query if indemnity insurance could be provided by FCA – indemnity insurance is governed state by state.
- Clarification if supervisor needs to be in the FC's state – can be in any state as long as registered on FCA approved list of supervisors.

All members in favour of approval of FCAT professional supervision policy, approved, to be commenced Jan 1 2022.

### **General Business**

Roundtable discussion of expectations for FCAT for the upcoming year;

- For FCAT to continue to support a variety of professional development opportunities and to be smart about how we do it e.g. using members to provide PD on their areas of expertise

- Clarification of when the FCAT conference will go ahead, preference for face to face format
- More facilitation of creditor relationships and initiation of a working relationship with more of a variety of creditors
- For new Financial Counsellors to be made more aware of the importance of supervision
- Talk to Points – fact sheets about current campaigns and issues
- More involvement from members
- More support for rural financial counselling/small business financial counselling and PD, FCA campaign/information relevant to them
- Insight into rural financial counselling/small business financial counselling
- Continued feedback on the FCAT website and how we can make it better
- For members to get together more

Discussion re size of FCAT executive – review of the committee size is a reasonable suggestion to determine if there are too many positions, if some roles could be combined, whether the FCA rep should be on the committee, whether a second ordinary member is required. A review is a consideration for future.

**FCA Update** – covered in presidents report of AGM

Next AGM Aug/Sept 2022 date TBA.

Meeting closed 1:35pm.