

Report of the Australian Seafarers Welfare Council Meeting

28 October 2016

Flinders Ports Outer Harbour Operations Centre

Port Adelaide, SA

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

The Chair introduced and welcomed MIAL's new representative to the Council, Isabelle Guaran.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

The meeting was attended by a quorum of members, with apologies from Ports Australia, Rio Tinto & Shipping Australia Limited.

Guests in attendance included representatives from Australian Medical Association WA (AMA (WA)), Flinders Ports & Stella Maris Port Adelaide.

AGENDA ITEM 3: GUEST PRESENTATIONS

3. b) Carl Kavina, General Manager Marine Operations, gave a presentation on Flinders Ports current operations.

Flinders Ports operates seven ports in South Australia: Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Klein Point, Port Giles, Thevenard and Wallaroo. Key achievements in the area of seafarer welfare are: Waiver of MSIC fees for approximately 35 people across all of their ports amounting to approximately \$7500.00/year; major sponsors of the SA Maritime Museum, sponsoring the museum exhibitions program; donation to various welfare providers in the area, amounting to approximately \$10,000/year; free WiFi at designated hotspots in the terminal; arrangement of chaplain services; and free tickets for seafarers to visit the Maritime Museum.

3. a) Julian Gimpel from the Australian Medical Association (WA) (AMA (WA)) gave a presentation on their work together with Farstad Shipping Offshore Simulation Centre on a Workplace Mental Health Accreditation Program. Currently with 25 participating employers, the program provides organisations with a range of auditing, consulting and training services which enable them to systematically integrate psychosocial risk management strategies into their overall OHS management systems. Training programs include Mental Health Awareness Training (online), Mental Health First Aid, Mental Health Safety Officer Training, and Cert IV Mental Health.

The application process for the course costs approximately 28-35K and accreditation is for 3 years.

Julian kindly offered to sign all the meeting attendees up for the Mental Health Awareness Training online course.

Those that may be interested in participating in the Program or considering implementing a psychosocial risk management plan can contact Julian at [AMA\(WA\)](http://AMA(WA).).



AGENDA ITEM 4: PREVIOUS MINUTES & ACTION ITEMS

Minutes from the previous meeting on 24 June 2016 were accepted without comment.

The Chair ran through the Actions Arising document.

AGENDA ITEM 5: CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair gave a verbal update on correspondence since the last meeting. Electronic copies had been circulated and a hard copy was available at the meeting for the Council to view.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ASWC ENGAGEMENT

The Chair provided an update on the website statistics during the reporting period (1 June – 30 Sept 16). There were 1,124 website 'hits' for this period, compared to 1,309 in the previous period.

It was noted that a more detailed website statistical analysis is not available at the moment however, with work being done at the moment on AMSA's websites, it is likely that this will be available in the future.

There had been 5 articles published to the website since the last meeting.

The Chair again urged all members to contribute articles and news stories to the website from their organisations or from the broader seafarers' welfare community.

WORKING LUNCH

AGENDA ITEM 7: MLC COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

7 a) & b) MLC Activity

AMSA presented the MLC incidents/complaints data for the reporting period 1 June – 30 Sept 2016, during the reporting period there were:

- 38 complaints regarding alleged breach of MLC
- 4 MLC related deficiencies issued
- 2 ship detentions for MLC related deficiencies
- 13 medivacs
- 2 man overboard incidents (1 of which is unclear if MOB or disappearance)
- 3 disappearance ashore

Calendar year to date (as at 30 Sept 16) there has been:

- 114 complaints regarding alleged breach of MLC
- 21 deficiencies issued
- 4 MLC related ship detentions following inspections instigated by MLC complaints

Garry Dodd (MTS East) queried disappearance statistics in last period compared to the previous year. The Chair advised AMSA would need to go through the data to draw a comparison.

ACTION 10/2016 – 7.1: AMSA to analyse incident data on the occurrence of disappearances in the previous reporting period compared to last year.

AGENDA ITEM 8: GENERAL BUSINESS

8 a) Finalise Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference were agreed and accepted by all in attendance.

ACTION 10/2016 – 8.1: Secretariat to publish the Terms of Reference to the ASWC website.

8 b) Finalise ASWC Strategies

The Council discussed the proposed ASWC Strategies document with particular focus on promoting and supporting the formation of Port Welfare Committees across the country. It was agreed that the document is acceptable with the addition of setting the priorities and implementation timeframes.

ACTION 10/2016 – 8.2: Secretariat to add detail re. priorities and estimated completion dates to page 2 of the ASWC Strategies document and circulate to the Council.

Alan Tait (Australian Mariners Welfare Society (AMWS)) talked about the closure of the Sydney Seafarers Centre where all the Sydney PWC meetings had been held till now and were presided over by its Manager, Mark Armstrong, made it timely to review its membership and prompt its revitalisation. Alan noted support for the committee is primarily from welfare providers with little support from industry.

Garry Dodd (MTS East) added that he had just returned from a meeting with MTS leaders around the world where it was agreed that there has been a shift in how PWC's are operating, from a traditional PWC to a more strategic focus. There are guidelines in the works which may be beneficial.

Steve Curry (AMSA) noted the importance of the local port communities coming together, others added Ports Australia & the individual port authorities need to drive these committees. The formation of a new PWC in Sydney, with possible use of AMSA's Sydney office meeting space was suggested.

ACTION 10/2016 – 8.3: Steve Curry (AMSA) to look into the use of AMSA's Sydney office for a Sydney PWC meeting space.

ACTION 10/2016 – 8.4: Alan Tait (AMWS) to provide a progress report at the next Council meeting on the revitalisation of the Sydney PWC.

8 c) Hunterlink update

Gavin Kelso (Hunterlink National) talked about the work Hunterlink has been doing with recent trips to the Philippines to attend the Day of the Seafarer conference and strengthen Hunterlink's relationship with Associated Marine Officers & Seamen Union Philippines, and to London to take part in a workshop on social isolation, depression and suicide prevention for seafarers. Gavin participated on the panel at the workshop alongside other world leaders of seafarer welfare, the panel worked on developing a 5 year model on providing support for seafarers' wellbeing and mental health.

8 d) Port Kembla crew transport issues

The Chair gave an update following recent advice from John Kewa of MTS Port Kembla, confirming the crew transport issue in Port Kembla has been resolved. The MTS bus will do three regular trips Monday to Friday to transport crew to/from the Bluescope and Patricks berths whenever ships are docked.

8 e) Cape Preston WA, shore leave issues

Dean Summers (ITF) talked about ships loading at sea in Cape Preston making the ports inaccessible and therefore preventing shore leave. Dean suggested we all need to think about what this means for seafarers and what we can do about it.

Dean advised he would provide a verbal update from ITF at each Council meeting, not to be documented in the meeting papers.

8 f) Other business

Local Stella Maris representative, Kevin Davies, raised concerns about security access issues for particular ships at the container berth in Port Adelaide. Carl Kavina (Flinders Ports) offered to look into this. The Chair requested Carl contact Melwyn Noronha (Shipping Australia Limited) with the outcomes so Melwyn can also look at this issue on a national level.

ACTION 10/2016 – 8.5: Carl Kavina to investigate security access issues for particular ships at Port Adelaide's container berth and advise Melwyn Noronha of the outcome. Melwyn to investigate the same on a national level.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be held at a location that is yet to be determined in either week 3 or 4 of February 2017. The secretariat will canvas members for their availability in the coming weeks.