



CITIZEN SCIENCE NETWORK AUSTRALIA INAUGURAL WORKSHOP

Entity & Governance Summary

Working Group Convener: Chris Gillies

Co-Convener: Stephanie von Gavel

Report produced by: Dwight Walker, Stephanie von Gavel, Chris Gillies

No. of working group members: 18

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Introduction

The Citizen Science Network Australia (CSNA) is a new national initiative to develop a community of practice in support of the burgeoning population of citizen science stakeholders within Australia. A variety of stakeholders met for the first time at Queensland Museum in Brisbane on the 6th of May, 2014 to support the formation of the CSNA. Since this inaugural workshop event, four working groups (entity & governance, mission & objectives, communication, funding) each led by a voluntary convener have been collaborating in a concerted effort to drive the network toward incorporation. Further information about the workshop and the CSNA's mission and objectives can be found at www.citizenscience.org.au

This summary outlines the key outcomes of the Inaugural Workshop and proposed method for moving forward with the CSNA's entity and governance structure as proposed by the *Entity and Governance Working Group*.

Workshop summary

Three long term options, including a value proposition for each model, were showcased to the workshop participants by speakers Stephanie Von Gavel and David McInnes:

- A new not-for-profit organisation (Incorporated Association)
- Community of Practice (Unincorporated Association)
- Organisation-based program (existing Incorporated Association)

During the breakout session workshop participants were invited to debate and make suggestions on their preferred long-term entity and governance structure for the CSNA. Each group (comprising 8-10 people, 9 groups in total) reported to the workshop audience a summary of their group's discussion.

There was a majority consensus to:

1. Form a new, member-based, independent, Incorporated Association;
2. In the interim (prior to Incorporation) identify a temporary host organisation that can support CSNA activities by providing *in kind* resources and assistance to the CSNA working groups; and,
3. Form volunteer working groups to assist the CSNA in progressing issues such as communication, funding, mission and objectives. The working groups would be overseen by a temporary steering committee.

Participants also highlighted the need for a members-based organisation that included both individuals and organisations. The CSNA should be independent and equally valuable to organisations, citizen science practitioners and community volunteers.

Next steps

At the conclusion of the Inaugural Workshop, participants agreed to form a volunteer working group on entity



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and governance to support the CSNA in becoming an Incorporated Association. The *Entity and Governance Working Group's* main objectives are to:

- Steer the CSNA towards an Incorporated Association
- Provide a mechanism by which the public can contribute to the development of CSNA entity and governance structure
- Develop resources and information as required to support incorporation
- Collectively decide on actions required to formalise CSNA entity and governance

Actions required

- Formalise the temporary steering committee and secure membership of eight participants, each with a diverse set of skills. The temporary steering committee will be made up of the four working group conveners and four additional persons representing a variety of CSNA stakeholders
- Develop an Expression of Interest for organisations to temporarily host CSNA staff
- Develop a position description for CSNA staff including a full time Secretary and Communications Officer
- Work with the *Funding Working Group* to secure *in kind* and financial contributions to support CSNA activities until the CSNA is able to resource itself independently
- Post all four working group summaries to the CSNA website and make available for public comment

Further information

The CSNA *Entity and Governance Working Group* members meet once a month to progress tasks associated with this working group.

Further information can be requested from the Working Group Convener:

Chris Gillies
Email: cgillies@earthwatch.org.au