



RMSANZ

Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand

Dear Colleagues,

At a strategy meeting, the board identified that the constitution of the RMSANZ needs updating and correction. It was written in 2016 and things have changed since then including a pandemic that has changed the way we communicate and deliver healthcare. Members can be reassured that updating the constitution is a process that medical societies go through regularly as they mature and grow. Without updates to the constitution, the RMSANZ cannot evolve and be fit for purpose.

The changes centre around 4 main issues:

Updating Nomenclature

1. The WHO International Classification on Functioning now refers to disability as activity limitation unless included in concepts or titles such as people living with a disability or the Disability Council of Australia. Antiquated rules on proxy forms for board meetings and an allowance of a director to call a general meeting without the approval of the board or 5% of members agreeing has also been removed.

a. So disability will change to disability/activity limitation.

2. The constitution refers to us as medical practitioners rather than members and as we have associate members, retired members and honorary members some of whom are not active medical practitioners

a. Change medical practitioners to members.

Including available technology to hold board meetings and updating board meeting details

3. Most board meetings are held on line but the constitution does not reflect this

a. Changes to reflect director's choices on using any approved technology including on line meeting platforms.

b. Removal of proxy forms for board meetings and a director having the unvetted power to call a general meeting.

Removing Duplication of objectives of the RMSANZ and achieved recommendations

4. There is now a model of collaboration with the AFRM, which determines the way we relate to one another and we have branches and SIGS already formed constituted and functioning.

The constitution recommends we organise branches, sigs and a collaborative agreement with the AFRM and therefore those recommendations are obsolete.

a. Removal of recommendation to form SIGS, branches and an agreement with AFRM.

5. There are a number of duplicate objectives such as supporting education and another about providing education for members, so the objectives have been consolidated and the language strengthened and sharpened.

a. Consolidation of duplicate objectives for the RMSANZ.

Confirming our Business Model

6. The importance of holding yearly ASM's has been added as this is a major source of revenue that keeps the society functional and together with membership is a centrepiece of our business model.

The details of all the changes follow in the included papers but I hope that you feel reassured that the board is simply doing its job and looking at our sentinel document and making sure it is up to date and provides members with the reassurance that the society is being effectively managed.

Should any members have questions please do not hesitate to send them to Alex (admin@rmsanz.net) and a member of the governance committee, our company secretary John Lemon or I will be able to respond.

All the best and thanks you for your interest in keeping our society in good order.

Prof Steven Faux, President

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