

Position Description for a Director of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Board - Independent

Position Title: Independent Director

Reports To: AVA Board of Directors

Location: Various (dependent on member's location)

Term: 3 years

About AVA: The AVA is the peak professional body representing veterinarians and veterinary students across Australia. For over 100 years, we have been the united voice of the profession, championing veterinary excellence and advocating for the critical role veterinarians play in safeguarding animal health and welfare. Our vision is a thriving veterinary profession, and our purpose is to build a vibrant future for veterinary professionals.

Position Summary: A Director of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Board is responsible for contributing to the [strategic direction](#) and governance of the AVA. Directors ensure the organisation adheres to its vision, purpose, values, and regulatory obligations while promoting the best interests of the veterinary profession. This position description outlines the responsibilities and qualifications for a Director of the AVA Board, ensuring effective governance and leadership within the AVA.

Key Responsibilities for all Directors

Governance and Oversight:

- Participate actively in board meetings and decision-making processes.
- Ensure the AVA complies with its constitution, bylaws, and relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
- Oversee the AVA's strategic direction, performance, and risk management.
- Review and approve policies, budgets, and plans to achieve the AVA's goals.

Strategic Planning:

- Contribute to the development and implementation of the AVA's strategic plan.
- Monitor progress towards strategic goals and objectives.
- Provide insights and guidance on industry trends and opportunities.

Financial Oversight:

- Ensure the financial integrity and sustainability of the AVA.
- Review and approve financial statements, budgets, and financial plans.
- Monitor financial performance and ensure effective resource allocation.

Stakeholder Engagement:

- Represent the AVA at professional, industry, and public events as required.
- Communicate with members, stakeholders, and the public about the AVA's activities and initiatives.
- Foster positive relationships with key stakeholders, including government bodies, regulatory agencies, and industry partners.

Risk Management:

- Identify and assess risks facing the organization.
- Ensure appropriate risk management policies and procedures are in place.
- Monitor and mitigate risks to safeguard the AVA's interests.

Board Participation:

- Attend and actively participate in all board meetings, committees, and special projects.
- Collaborate effectively with fellow directors, the CEO, and senior management.
- Contribute to board evaluations and development activities.

Ethical Standards and Conduct:

- Uphold the highest standards of integrity, ethics, and professionalism.
- Act in the best interests of the AVA and its members.
- Avoid conflicts of interest and disclose any potential conflicts as they arise.

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

Essential:

Governance:

- Ability to demonstrate completion of company director training (e.g., AICD) or indicate a willingness to complete such training during the first year of their first term as Director.
- Knowledge of corporate governance, financial management, and strategic planning.
- Strategic thinker with the ability to analyse complex issues and make informed decisions.
- Financial literacy and understanding of budgetary processes.

Financial management and sustainability

- Senior executive or board-level experience with responsibility for financial oversight, budgeting, and long-term financial sustainability.
- Ability to interpret, question, and challenge financial reporting and financial risk at Board level.
- Relevant professional qualifications (e.g. CA, CPA, MBA or equivalent) or demonstrated equivalent experience.

Personal Attributes:

- Commitment to the AVA's mission, values, and goals.
- High ethical standards and integrity.
- Proactive and engaged approach to board responsibilities.
- Willingness to dedicate time and effort to fulfill the duties of a director.
- Ability to work collaboratively and constructively with diverse stakeholders.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.

Desirable:

Age and generational demographic insight

- Experience contributing to strategy or governance in organisations undergoing workforce, membership, or demographic transition.
- Insight into the expectations and engagement of emerging professional cohorts.
- Experience bringing diverse age or generational perspectives to Board decision-making.