



Australian College of Nursing

ACN GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK



President's Forward

- The ACN Governance Framework is the system through which the ACN Board of Directors provides guidance to the entire organisation, regarding systems of accountability and the quality of its services and functions. Its intention is to ensure high levels of integrity and standards are maintained both internally, by and for our valued staff and externally, for our many members and stakeholders.
- This is achieved by the establishment of an environment in which there is transparent responsibility and accountability for maintaining ACN's business practices and by allowing excellence to flourish in the way we do business within every one of our business activities and with all our customers – namely members, donors, government, suppliers, supporters and professional associates.
- Whilst governance relies on the skills and performance of individuals, it does not rely on the individual alone to do the right thing but ensures systems and processes are in place to ensure everyone (individual, professional and organisational) is accountable and responsible for the delivery of effective, high quality and continuously improving services.
- At ACN the Governance Framework provides high level guidance to the Board, Executive, Management and staff to provide leadership, shared responsibility and accountability for adhering to standards, continually improving, minimising risk and fostering an environment of business excellence in the services we provide for and in partnership with our members and stakeholders. It is the guiding framework that outlines the minimum governance system for ACN.
- The responsibility to effectively operationalise the guiding framework and optimise our ACN service quality, rests with the Board, all ACN staff, every ACN State, Territory and Region and every ACN Faculty.
- The scope of ACN services is significant and continually growing as the pre-eminent organisation for Nurse Leadership in Australia. ACN's international reach is also expanding. In considering the extent of services and activities ACN now provides it has become an imperative that a minimum Governance Framework is in place, monitored and adhered to by the organisation.

ACN President



Corporate Governance: The framework by which our Board, Executive Management, Team Leaders and staff provide leadership and have accountability for: maintaining business standards, continuous improvement, minimising risk and fostering an environment of excellence in the services we provide for, and in partnership with, our members, stakeholders, donors and health consumers.

ELEMENTS OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- A: Accountability :**
 - i. Roles and responsibilities
 - ii. Leadership, mission, vision, principles and values
- B. Committee structure, Organisational Structure**
 - iii. Governance and advice
- C. Strategies and standards:**
 - iv. Strategic and operational plans, frameworks
 - v. Standards: national, international, financial, academic, professional
- D. Organisational systems, assurance and review:**
 - vi. Policy documents
 - vii. Enterprise quality improvement
 - viii. Risk management
 - ix. Performance reporting

PRINCIPLES FOR, HIGH QUALITY BUSINESS and ADVOCACY PERFORMANCE

- Member and stakeholder centric
- Driven by information
- Organised for compliance
- Led for high performance

ELEMENTS OF CORPORATE SERVICE DELIVERY

- 1. Business practice:**
 - a. Member and Stakeholder focused
 - b. Best practice and evidence based
 - c. Focused on member outcomes and risk mitigation
 - d. Provided in partnership
- 2. Workforce:**
 - e. Skilled and effective
 - f. Meets organisational needs in supportive workplace
 - g. Actively engaged
- 3. Infrastructure and support:**
 - h. **Facilities:** owned and leased
 - i. **Equipment:** including devices and supplies
 - j. **Information services and management:** ICT, member records and data analysis
Data security