

Role purpose statement

National President

**1. COMPANY OVERVIEW**

The Australian Association of Social Workers Limited (“AASW” or the “Association”) is the lead national association for Australian professional social workers. The Association sets the benchmark for professional education and practice in social work. AASW has a strong voice on matters of social inclusion, social justice, human rights and issues that impact upon the quality of life of all Australians. The Association seeks a close and collaborative relationship with educational institutions, industry, government, client associations and the community. AASW acknowledges the critical importance of the contribution made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members.

AASW has corporate responsibility for promoting and self-regulating the social work profession in Australia. AASW represents social workers by ensuring the sustainable development of the profession, the maintenance of accountability and compliance with benchmark standards, and the promotion of professional identity. Membership offers social workers the opportunity to work collectively to contribute to Australian society, its communities and institutions in a way that is dedicated to improving social inclusion and social wellbeing.

**2. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Under the *Corporations Act*, the National President has no additional power or authority above that of an Ordinary Director.

This means that the National President’s responsibilities include the following:

(a) fulfil their duties as a Director under Corporations law, common law and ACNC Governance Standard 5 (AASW is a registered charity);

(b) provide leadership to the Association, particularly in the areas of ethics and culture;

(c) actively contribute during Board meetings to ensure the Board effectively fulfils its role and achieves its strategic direction;

(d) positively represent the Association at industry events or other stakeholder engagements, as required;

(e) model the Association’s values; and

(f) act in accordance with the Association’s Constitution, ByLaws, Board Charter, Director Code of Conduct and associated policies and protocols.

Specific responsibilities, which are set out in the Association’s Constitution, include:

a) presiding over meetings of the Board and general meetings of the Company;

b) being available to consult with the CEO and delegated staff on Company matters between Board meetings;

c) represent the Board and the Company between its meetings;

d) report all important interim actions to the Board;

e) in consultation with the Board, nominate convenors of all national committees who are ratified by the Board;

f) being an ex-officio member of all Company Boards, committees and other Company forums (excluding the Ethics Panel) but must not be appointed as a convenor of a national committee while holding the office of the National President;

g) assume portfolio responsibilities for national committees as outlined in the ByLaws and determined by the Board;

h) regularly communicate with members about the Company, its operations and issues affecting the profession; and

i) carry out any other duties as outlined by the ByLaws.

The National President must not hold any other office in the Company for example, Branch President.

**3. DIRECTORS’ COMMITMENT AND KNOWLEDGE**

All Directors are required to:

* be actively involved in Board and Committee activities as required;
* be prepared for all Board and Committee meetings;
* undertake individual reading or research and attend any seminars, conferences or other activities which will enhance their contribution to the Board;
* undertake professional development during the term of their appointment to continually enhance their skills and knowledge of corporate governance, in accordance with the Board Charter;
* attain and maintain an appropriate level of financial literacy;
* make reasonable inquiries to ensure that AASW is operating efficiently, effectively, and legally towards achieving its objectives;
* undertake diligent analysis of all proposals and submissions placed before the Board or Committee;
* be independent in judgement and actions and take all reasonable steps to be satisfied as to the soundness of all decisions taken by the Board; and
* be familiar with their legal duties and responsibilities as a Director and maintain currency of that knowledge.

In addition, all Directors must make their utmost effort to attend all Board and relevant Committee meetings and as many other Board-related events as possible. This ensures that:

* the workload of the Board is shared among the Directors;
* Board deliberations involve the input of all Directors which is important given that the Board relies on its collective skill set; and
* the Board is able to achieve the necessary quorum.

**4. ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES**

The Associations ByLaws sets out the skills, attributes, knowledge and qualifications (the “key attributes”) considered desirable in being elected or appointed as a Director of AASW. They include:

1. Professional integrity
2. Cultural awareness and humility
3. Critical thinking
4. Communicate constructively
5. Focus strategically
6. Collaborate in the best interests of the Association.