

# Introduction to the Role of a Board Member

A member of a State Board is appointed to act on behalf of the citizen to oversee the running of the affairs of the business. The Board is directly accountable to the taxpayer/shareholders and each year the organisation will hold an annual general meeting (AGM) at which the Board must provide a report on the performance of the organisation, what its future plans and strategies are. The Board's key purpose is to ensure the governance and prosperity of the body by collectively overseeing the Board's affairs, whilst meeting the appropriate interests of its shareholders and stakeholders. In addition to business and financial issues, the Board must deal with challenges and issues relating to corporate governance, corporate social responsibility and corporate ethics.

Corporate governance comprises the systems and procedures by which organisations are directed and managed. State bodies must serve the interests of the taxpayer, pursue value for money in their endeavours (including managing risk appropriately), and act transparently as public entities. The Board and management should accept accountability for the proper management of the organisation.

## State Board Member Self Assessment Questionnaire

This short questionnaire encourages you to review how your interests, skills and experience match the challenging requirements of State Board Membership. Please print the document below and work through the statements by selecting the answer option that best reflects your level of agreement with each statement, in the context of your current career or circumstances:

- SA - Strongly Agree
- A - Agree
- D - Disagree
- SD - Strongly Disagree

Please work through each section – Use your current and past experiences to help you decide on your response. You may feel that some of the statements are not relevant to you or you may find it difficult to choose an appropriate answer, however try to choose the most relevant option presented.



# IS A STATE BOARD ROLE FOR ME?

Commitment to Public Sector Values		SA	A	D	SD
1.	I am committed to public service				
2.	I am committed to promoting and ensuring transparency and fairness in how people or organisations work				
3.	I can manage outside interests so they do not conflict with the focus of the Board or organisation				
4.	I am committed to accountability				
5.	I am committed to always acting with integrity, ethically and to the highest professional standard				
Organisational Leadership		SA	A	D	SD
6.	I have experience of setting strategic direction for organisations				
7.	I have experience of putting controls and structures in place to manage strategy implementation and the delivery of organisational objectives				
8.	I have experience of assessing, controlling and managing risk in sensitive situations				
9.	I have a track record of leading and directing organisational activity				
10.	I take a system-wide approach and see connections, risks and the potential for innovation in the wider environment				
11.	I am comfortable with the public and media profile often associated with serving on a State Board				
12.	I understand that by serving on a State Board I will hold a position of significant responsibility that must be respected				
Working Effectively with Others		SA	A	D	SD
13.	I can build effective relationships within a team				
14.	I have a track record of interacting with peers at a senior level				
15.	I enjoy supporting and working with colleagues in challenging situations				
16.	I have a track record of contributing in my area(s) of expertise and helping deliver on team goals				
Dealing with Complexity		SA	A	D	SD
17.	I understand the impact of environmental and economic issues on decisions				
18.	I appreciate I will be accountable to my key stakeholders				
19.	I can critically analyse complex problems and clearly evaluate and assess key information				
20.	I persevere in challenging situations, demonstrating resilience and tenacity				
Communicating my Views		SA	A	D	SD
21.	I am willing to voice my views and constructively challenge executive management				
22.	I anticipate political sensitivities and complexities and respond in an informed and constructive manner				
23.	I can express my views convincingly and influence others of my perspective				

# IS A STATE BOARD ROLE FOR ME?

Communicating my Views		SA	A	D	SD
24.	I have experience of leading discussion on organisational wide issues				
25.	I am sufficiently independent-minded to provide an objective perspective to a Board				
26.	I can listen to and consider differing opinions to my own				
27.	I am confident I can contribute to Board discussions in an effective way				
Specialist Expertise		SA	A	D	SD
28.	Based on my career to date I have in depth knowledge and expertise of:				
	Corporate Governance				
	Risk Management				
	Compliance/Regulation				
	Change Management				
	Finance				
	Law				
	HR				
	Communications/Marketing and Media				
	Community Engagement/Activism				
	Technology				
29.	I am committed to continuously learning and developing				
30.	I am self aware and seek opportunities to act on areas for my own development				
31.	I maintain a sound knowledge of sectoral, political and international issues and their wider implications for the citizen and the State				
Availability and Logistics		SA	A	D	SD
32.	I realise I will need sufficient time to devote to serving on a State Board, recognising that attendance at Board meetings is only one aspect of the role				
33.	I may be required to take on sub-committee responsibilities and chair/attend extra meetings in relation to these				
34.	I understand I will need to prioritise Board meetings within my schedule				
35.	I will ensure I am fully prepared for all Board meetings and will follow up on relevant actions				
Motivation		SA	A	D	SD
36.	I have considered my motivation for wanting to serve on a State Board and feel I am doing it for the right reasons				

This self assessment questionnaire gives you an indicator of the qualities that are important for a **State Board** role. If you **agreed** or **strongly agreed** with the majority of statements provided this role is likely to suit you. If you **disagreed** or **strongly disagreed** with the majority of statements provided we would ask you to reconsider the role and your intention to apply.