



ANZSN POLICY AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Role

- (a) The ANZSN (**Society**) Policy and Quality Committee (**Committee**) is a committee of the Society's Council (**Council**) and provides advice to the Council.
- (b) The Committee exercises delegated powers and functions of the Council as set out in these terms of reference, or as directed by Council from time to time, under clause 43 of the Society's Constitution.
- (c) The purpose of the Committee is to advise upon, facilitate and support high quality health care in the practice of Nephrology in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand as part of promoting and maintaining kidney health and treating kidney disease.

2. Functions

- (a) The Committee's functions are:
 - (i) to provide strategic policy advice on matters pertaining to the prevention and detection of kidney disease, both specifically and through the planning and delivery of the biennial Dialysis Nephrology and Transplantation Workshop;
 - (ii) to provide strategic policy advice on all aspects of kidney disease care, with a specific focus on promoting equity of access, through mechanisms such as, but not limited to, the biennial Home Dialysis Conference managed by the Scientific Program and Awards Committee;
 - (iii) to address important policy issues by identifying, developing and reviewing materials (such as policy documents, clinical quality registry data, reports and other information and evidence, measurement

recommendations and reporting recommendations) to guide and, where appropriate, support high quality clinical practice and patient safety in nephrology;

- (iv) to provide advice on benchmarking and key performance and quality indicators in clinical nephrology practice across the spectrum of care of patients with kidney disease and related conditions;
 - (v) to provide advice, develop or review quality assurance and quality improvement mechanisms, tools, standards and other materials, aimed at addressing, maintaining and improving safety and equity, and supporting quality assurance, of health care and the treatment of people with kidney disease and related conditions;
 - (vi) to conduct such quality assurance and quality improvement activities relating to the clinical practice of nephrology as the Council may approve from time to time;
 - (vii) to establish a sub-committee to support and guide the ANZSN's relationship with, advice to and dissemination and use of reports and other information from, the clinical quality registry (CQR) ANZDATA and other relevant registries in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The Sub-committee will include members with relevant expertise, a nominee of ANZDATA and, where appropriate, other people from outside the Committee and the Society. The Subcommittee will report to the Committee in the manner and frequency required by the Committee;
 - (viii) to establish other sub-committees, as required and with Council approval, to address particular areas of clinical practice or particular quality assurance or quality improvement mechanisms in relation to the practice of nephrology and patient safety. Such sub-committees will include members with relevant expertise and, where appropriate, people from outside the Committee and the Society. Such subcommittees will report to the Committee in the manner and frequency required by the Committee;
 - (ix) to establish working groups, as required and approved by the Council, to address particular clinical practice, patient safety, equity or quality assurance issues. Such working groups will provide reports to the Committee, with recommendations for consideration by the Committee and ultimately the Council. Such working groups will comprise members with relevant expertise and can include, where appropriate, people from outside the Committee and the Society;
 - (x) such other functions as are reasonably determined by the Council, including but not limited to, the review of proposals and monitoring of policy, safety and quality related projects funded by the ANZSN.
- (b) In fulfilling its functions, the Committee may structure its agendas to provide a specific focus on key matters at defined intervals and to structure Committee member attendance accordingly. This may include, but is not

limited to, consideration of specific matters relating to HD and PD (including promotion of home dialysis), transplantation, chronic kidney disease, interventional nephrology and supportive care.

3. Membership

- (a) The membership of the Committee should reflect, as far as reasonably practicable, the multi-disciplinary approach to the prevention, detection and treatment of kidney disease.
- (b) The composition of the Committee is to include at least 2 members usually resident in Aotearoa New Zealand and should reflect the principles of gender balance and inclusiveness having regard to the overall membership of the Society.
- (c) The Committee will comprise up to 14 members, including a Chair and a Deputy Chair, which must include:
 - (i) 1 Councillor being a Nephrologist whose appointment is approved by the Council;
 - (ii) 4 ordinary members of the Society being Nephrologists, including one ordinarily resident in New Zealand whose appointment is approved by Council;
 - (iii) 1 ordinary member of the Society who is an early career Nephrologist (within 5 years of attaining Fellowship), whose appointment is approved by the Council;
 - (iv) 1 affiliate member of the Society being an allied health professional, health economist, dietitian or other allied health professional with appropriate expertise, whose appointment is approved by the Council;
 - (v) Chair, Local Organising Committee for the biennial DNT Workshop, whose appointment shall come into effect from 12 -18 months prior to the nominated conference and for at least one meeting following the delivery of that conference;
 - (vi) 2 representatives of the Renal Society of Australasia, one representing New Zealand and one representing Australia, whose appointment is approved by the Council or delegate (**nominee member**, no voting rights);
 - (vii) 1 consumer representative, being a member of Kidney Health Australia's (KHA) Consumer Council or equivalent, whose appointment is approved by the Council or delegate (**nominee member**, no voting rights);¹

¹ The ANZSN will remunerate and reimburse the Australian consumer representative in accordance with the recommendations set out in the Health Consumers NSW Position Statement on Remuneration and Reimbursement of Health Consumers (<https://www.hcnsw.org.au/for-health-consumer-organisations/remuneration-and-reimbursement-of-health-consumers/>)

- (viii) 1 consumer representative, being a member of the Kidney Health New Zealand's Consumer Council or equivalent, whose appointment is approved by the Council or delegate (**nominee member**, no voting rights); ²
 - (ix) 1 nominee of the Kidney Health Australia (KHA) executive with policy and advocacy expertise (**nominee member**, no voting rights) whose appointment is approved by the Council or delegate; and
 - (x) 1 nominee of the Kidney Health New Zealand executive with policy and advocacy expertise (KHNZ) (**nominee member**, no voting rights) whose appointment is approved by the Council or delegate.
- (d) In the event that there is no, or insufficient, suitable persons available for appointment who satisfy the relevant eligibility criteria for a category of membership of the Committee under clause 3 (c), the Committee may function without that category of membership, or the specified number of that category of membership, until a suitable appointee becomes available, and the quorum under clause 5 (d) is to be calculated on the basis of the reduced number of members during this period of reduced membership.
- (e) Where a nominee member is unable to attend a meeting, an alternate will be allowed to attend the meeting at the discretion of the Chair or Acting Chair.
- (f) The Committee may co-opt the services of any other person if it considers this desirable, however that person will have no voting rights at any meeting of the Committee and will not be counted in determining a quorum.

4. Terms of appointment

4.1 Members other than the Chair and Deputy Chair

- (a) All Committee members, except nominee members, will be appointed for a term of up to three years, with consideration of staggering of appointment terms to ensure succession planning and business continuity.
- (b) No person may be a member of the Committee for more than two consecutive terms.
- (c) A nominee member may serve continuously up to six years, or during the period that their nomination remains on foot, whichever is the shorter period.

² The ANZSN will remunerate and reimburse the New Zealand consumer representative in accordance with relevant New Zealand guidelines, defaulting to the Health Consumers NSW Position Statement on the Remuneration and Reimbursement of Health Consumers if required.

- (d) A person who has completed their maximum permitted continuous period as a Committee member will be eligible for further appointment as a member of the Committee after six years has elapsed from the conclusion of the maximum permitted period.
- (e) Unless the Council determines otherwise in any particular case, the Chair must call for expressions of interest to join the Committee as required to fill vacancies in membership, other than in respect of nominee members, giving respondents one calendar month to express their interest.
- (f) Other than for the appointment of the members of the Committee under clause 3 (c) (i) and (ii), the Honorary Executive Officer, under delegation of Council, may approve appointments to the Committee, in consultation with the Committee Chair, where appointed, and any Councillor member of the Committee.
- (g) The Council or delegate, as the case may be, is to consider any response to an expression of interest to join the Committee, but is not limited to the pool of respondents to such expressions of interest in approving appointments to vacancies in membership.
- (h) A person will cease to be a member of the Committee if:
 - (i) they resign from the Committee, by giving one month's notice (or such lesser period as the Chair of the Committee approves in any particular case) in writing to the Chair of the Committee;
 - (ii) they attend less than 50% of the scheduled meetings within a 12 month period, unless otherwise agreed with the Chair;
 - (iii) they cease to satisfy the eligibility criteria specified in the category of membership in clause 3 (c) under which they were appointed to the Committee;
 - (iv) in the case of a nominee member, their nomination is withdrawn by the relevant organisation;
 - (v) in the case of a member who is the Chair of the Committee, they cease to be the Chair of the Committee; or
 - (vi) in any case, the Council revokes their membership, in its absolute discretion.

4.2 Chair and Deputy Chair

- (a) The Chair of the Committee is to be drawn from one of the categories of membership under clause 3 (c) (i) or (ii), and:
 - (i) their appointment is to be approved by the Council for a period up to 3 years; and
 - (ii) unless the Council otherwise determines in any particular case, the Deputy Chair of the Committee is to be appointed Chair upon the conclusion of the previous Chair's period of office.
- (b) The Deputy Chair of the Committee:
 - (i) must be drawn from one of the categories of membership under clause 3 (c) (i) or (ii);
 - (ii) their appointment is to be approved by the Council following a call for expressions of interest to be conducted in such manner as the Council determines;
 - (iii) is to be appointed for a period determined by the Council. Where applicable or reasonably practicable, having regard to clause 4.2 (a) (ii), the Deputy Chair should be appointed for a period of at least 12 months.
- (c) The Chair or Deputy Chair of the Committee will cease to hold such office:
 - (i) if they resign from the office, by giving one month's notice (or such lesser period as the Honorary Executive Officer approves in any particular case) in writing to the ANZSN Honorary Executive Officer;
 - (ii) if they cease to be a member of the Committee;
 - (iii) if they cease to satisfy the eligibility criteria specified in either of the categories of membership referred to in clause 4.2 (a) (ii); or
 - (iv) in any case, if the Council revokes their appointment to such office, in its absolute discretion.

5. Meetings

- (a) The Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year, including one (1) face-to-face meeting per calendar year. The face to face meeting will be held, as far as is practicable, in conjunction with the Annual Scientific Meeting.
- (b) The Chair (or in their absence the Deputy Chair) may call a special meeting of the Committee to be held by teleconference or videoconference, with

members being given at least seven days notice of the meeting.

- (c) The Chair (or in their absence, the Deputy Chair) must:
 - (i) oversee the allocation of specific portfolios (areas of responsibility aligned with the terms of reference for the Committee to individual members to support the Committee's work and to facilitate succession planning;
 - (ii) prepare and issue the agenda for a meeting a week before the meeting, and review and confirm drafts for submission of key proposals requiring formal Committee approval;
 - (iii) facilitate open and constructive communication amongst committee members and encourage their contribution to Committee deliberations;
 - (iv) ensure all discussion items end with a decision or action;
 - (v) ensure all items are referred for additional advice to other committees or subcommittees of the Council, where appropriate; and
 - (vi) in the absence of any Deputy Chair, nominate an acting chair from the Committee membership (excluding nominee members) to act in the Chair's place, as required.
- (d) A quorum of members:
 - (i) must be present before a meeting may proceed; and
 - (ii) is constituted by half the members eligible to vote plus one, including the Chair or Deputy Chair.
- (e) The Committee may make a decision by a show of hands, or where demanded by a member entitled to vote, a ballot.
- (f) The Chair of the Committee (or the person acting as Chair in the Chair's absence) will have a deliberative and, in the case of equal votes, a casting vote.
- (g) The Committee may make a decision without a meeting if all committee members eligible to vote sign their consent on a document (which may have counterparts), which states the decision.
- (h) No business may be considered at a meeting of the Committee until the minutes of the previous meeting have been confirmed or otherwise disposed of. No discussion of the minutes is permitted except as to their

accuracy.

- (i) Minutes of a meeting must be confirmed by resolution and signed by the Chair at the next meeting. Minutes confirmed and signed in that way will be taken as evidence of proceedings of that meeting.
- (j) Committee meetings, to the extent practicable, will be digitally recorded for the purposes of minute taking. Recordings will be disposed of once the minutes have been accepted.
- (k) Unless expressed to the contrary, any duty, function or authority conferred on the Chair by these Terms of Reference is conferred on any person for the time being acting as Chair.

6. Secretariat

The Society will provide administrative resources to assist the Chair (or in their absence, the Deputy Chair or an acting Chair) to schedule Committee meetings, draft the meeting agenda and prepare minutes of Committee meetings.

7. Reporting

- (a) The Chair will report to the Council at least annually, including one face to face meeting, and by teleconference or in writing at other Council meetings.
- (b) The Chair will be informed of Council meeting dates annually.
- (c) All Committee meeting minutes will be forwarded to the Council.
- (d) Additional written reports will be provided to the Council at the Council's request.

8. Confidentiality

All business of the Committee, other than information before the Committee already available in the public domain or intended for dissemination in the public domain, is confidential and must be treated as confidential by all Committee members. Members are not to disclose any confidential information to anyone outside the Committee, other than to Councillors, without the prior approval of the Chair in consultation as appropriate with the Councillor member (unless the matter concerns the conduct or performance of the Chair), and are to treat this material with the utmost care and discretion.

9. Conflicts of Interest

- (a) A Committee member must declare any conflict of interest to the Chair if

they, their partner or close family friend, has a direct financial or other professional or personal interest which influences, or may appear to influence, proper consideration or decision-making by the Committee on a matter or proposed matter.

- (b) In the case of a declared conflict of interest, the Chair (or Deputy Chair in their absence) must:
 - (i) determine the nature of that member's permitted participation, whether that is full participation in the Committee's handling of that issue, capacity to discuss the issue but not to vote on the issue, a prohibition on discussing or voting on the issue, or departure from the meeting while that issue is being handled;
 - (ii) advise the person concerned of the Chair's determination; and
 - (iii) report the determination to the Committee and the Council.

10. Funding

- (a) Council will consult with and formally advise the Committee each year on the budgetary allocation to support ANZSN scientific and clinical programs and related meeting and strategic initiatives for the following year.
- (b) Council will consult with the Committee about the development of a workplan to assist with the implementation and progress reporting of Committee led programs, strategic projects and initiatives.

11. Delegations

- (a) The Chair, Deputy Chair (or in their absence the Acting Chair) and members of the Committee, must obtain express written permission from the Council or Chair of the Council before purporting to act or communicate on behalf of the Society or Council.
- (b) In addition to any delegations set out in the ANZSN Delegations of Authority Policy or as otherwise specified by Council from time to time, under clause 43 of the Society's Constitution, Council delegates to the Committee the power and authority to:
 - (i) approve the program for the biennial Dialysis Nephrology and Transplantation Workshop, complying with all relevant ANZSN policies.

12. Amendments to the Terms of Reference

- (a) The Committee may review these Terms of Reference at any time.
- (b) The Committee may recommend amendments to these Terms of Reference to the Council.
- (c) The recommended alteration takes effect on approval by the Council.

13. Bylaws

In accordance with clause 44 of the Society's Constitution the Council may make bylaws relating to the conduct or management of the business of all committees, which includes this Committee, or otherwise for the purpose of carrying out its objects.