

6 February 2018

Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association Statement of Work: AICD Governance Review

The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) has been engaged by the Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) to support the PMSA in enhancing its governance arrangements. The AICD's program of work incorporates a review of existing governance arrangements with a view to identifying strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Consultation

As part of its program of work, the AICD will be gathering insight from a range of stakeholders¹ into specific areas of governance, including:

- The role and composition of the PMSA board
- The role and composition of PMSA school councils

Engagement in this component of the AICD's program of work will take the form of an open consultation process to enable the opportunity for all stakeholders with an interest in the PMSA to contribute.

To support effective engagement and participation in the consultation, the AICD will prepare an Issues Paper on those areas that the AICD seeks input on from stakeholders. The Issues Paper will pose a series of open-style questions in relation to the areas for consultation. The Issues Paper will be released on the PMSA website.

Stakeholders will be asked to respond to the Issues Paper in the form of a written submission. Submissions will be directed to the AICD via a dedicated email address. Following the close date, the AICD will collate and analyse all submissions and integrate the findings into its review process.

¹ Stakeholders in PMSA's context include, but are not limited to, parents, students, former students, PMSA employees, members of PMSA's governing bodies and the PMSA's constituent Churches.

Scope and Limitations

The AICD's current scope of work is confined to matters of governance within the existing parameters set by the PMSA Constitution.

The AICD's work is guided by the following principles, that the PMSA

- retains its existing schools within the current group structure
- strengthens an approach that enables the promotion of the individual character of PMSA schools while leveraging the PMSA's collective strengths
- ensures that the approach is built on sound principles that can sustain the organisation over time

This work is separate from the facilitation process that is already underway with the Hon Richard Chesterman working towards healing and reconciliation.

Nature of Advice

The AICD's role is to review, assess and provide recommendations and advice to the PMSA to support improved governance, taking into consideration the context and circumstances within which the PMSA and its schools operate. While the AICD's detailed recommendations will be confidential to PMSA, it is the AICD and PMSA's intention to publish a summary of the findings of this review. All decisions regarding the governance of the PMSA and its schools ultimately rest with the PMSA Council.

Constitutional Reform

It is recognised that the AICD's work represents one phase of an ongoing process of review and reform for the PMSA. The process of review is supported by the Uniting Church and the Presbyterian Church. The Churches have made it clear that governance of the four schools remains with the PMSA Council and that this phase of the review process should be run by the PMSA independent of the two Churches.

In accordance with the PMSA Constitution, recommendations from the review that have constitutional implications will be provided by the PMSA to the Churches for consideration at the end of the review process. Any Constitutional change will be at the determination of the two Churches and will require a separate process.

Indicative Consultation Timeline:

Late Feb/March:	Issues Paper released on the PMSA website Submissions open (3-weeks)
March:	Submissions close
Early-April:	Analysis of submissions
April:	Further consultation and analysis as required
May:	Preparation of Report and Summary of Findings
June:	Presentation of Findings to the PMSA Council
Late June/July:	Finalisation of Review and release of Summary of Findings