



Australian
Medical Council Limited

General Information for Nominees

The Australian Medical Council is an independent national standards body for medical education. Its purpose is to ensure that standards of education, training and assessment of the medical profession promote and protect the health of the Australian community.

The AMC is currently appointed under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 as the external accreditation authority for medicine. In this capacity it is responsible for setting standards for medical education and training at medical school, intern and specialist medical training stages. It accredits programs and providers in all these stages of basic medical education (medical courses), intern training and specialist medical education and training leading to registration. It also conducts the assessment of non-specialist International Medical Graduates (IMGs) leading to general registration and facilitates the assessment of overseas trained specialists by the relevant Specialist Medical Colleges.

The AMC is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered charity. It is subject to the Corporations Act, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act and operates in accordance with its Constitution. The AMC is governed by the Directors of the AMC. AMC Standing Committees and working groups provide support and advice to the Directors and to the Council. The AMC Secretariat, largely based in Canberra, supports the functions of the AMC. With funding assistance from Health Workforce Australia, the AMC developed the AMC National Test Centre (NTC) in Melbourne, predominantly to increase the availability of the structured clinical examinations for International Medical Graduates. A number of AMC staff are located at the NTC.

Membership of the Council

Members of Council (appointed according to the Constitution) are drawn from a wide cross section of the groups associated with medical education, health delivery and with the standards of medical practice in Australia, including:

- those with expertise in medical regulation
- those with experience with the medical schools
- those with experience in the specialist medical colleges
- representatives of the medical profession
- medical students/junior doctors
- specialist education trainees
- health consumers and community members
- those involved directly in health services delivery
- the Chair of the Confederation of Postgraduate Medical Education Councils
- the CEO of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- the Chairs of each of the four AMC Standing Committees

Responsibilities of the Council

Every member of the Council has full membership and voting rights and responsibilities of AMC Ltd. The AMC's Constitution and Strategic Plan 2018-2028 are available on the Council's website (www.amc.org.au) along with details of current AMC Council Members and other governance information.

The Council currently meets twice a year – a General Meeting and site visit (usually held mid-year) and the Annual General Meeting (usually held in November).

At the Annual General Meeting the Council receives and considers the audited financial reports of the AMC, the reports of the Directors, and appoints the auditor (if necessary). The Council also elects the President, Deputy President and a number of the AMC Directors.

The General Meeting is held in various locations, including rural and regional Australia, to enable the Council to undertake site visits to meet with community members and local health and education bodies to gain a better understanding of issues related to the purpose of the AMC. The composition of the Council ensures that issues can be explored from a number of perspectives.

Time Commitment

Participation on the AMC Council requires attendance at two one-day meetings a year as well as the mid-year site visit. Attendance may require significant travel and the AMC endeavours to give members plenty of notice to ensure availability and attendance.

Secretariat Support

The Secretariat supports Council Members with any queries on AMC's processes, procedures or Agenda papers. The Secretariat also arranges travel and accommodation for Council meetings.

The Secretariat utilises an online portal for disseminating Agenda papers to Council and provides a mechanism for Council Members to contribute to AMC responses to various external consultations.

Agenda papers generally include financial reports, election requirements and reports on AMC functions and activities. To meet the legal requirements to accept reports and to contribute effectively to the discussions, it is expected that Members will have read the papers.

Other opportunities

Council members have the opportunity to serve as Directors and on Standing Committees, working groups and assessment teams of the AMC. The time commitments and responsibilities for these depend on the nature of the role.

Fees, Travel and Accommodation

The AMC meets the cost of necessary accommodation, meals and incidental expenditure, such as taxi fares. The AMC Secretariat will organise travel and accommodation on behalf of all Members.

Council Members are paid a daily sitting fees. However, there are circumstances in which fees are not paid, for example where the Member is a State or Commonwealth public servant.

