

STA Board

Science & Technology Australia (STA) is Australia's peak body in science and technology. We represent more than 115,000 scientists and technologists through our 130+ member organisations. We have given voice to Australian STEM for almost 38 years.

STA delivers on our charitable purpose through education, outreach and programs. We do so to advance how science and technology can help solve some of humanity's greatest challenges. We:

- advance the science and technology sector's ability to contribute to public debate, policymaking and the public good
- connect scientists and technologists with Parliamentarians, the public service, the research sector and industry
- make submissions and give evidence to Parliament and Government to bring science and technology expertise into policymaking
- articulate the expert views of Australia's scientists and technologists in statements on policy and contribute to national discussions and public debate on Australia's future
- form partnerships and alliances to enhance the role of science and technology in Australia, bringing representative bodies together to collaborate on issues; and
- run programs to build capacity and diversity in our sector and strengthen Australia's STEM workforce.

The STA Board includes 6 member-elected directors, a President and in relevant years a President-Elect (both elected directly by the members), the CEO and up to two appointed directors.

Each elected position is eligible to serve a term of 3 years and is eligible for re-election for a second term, to a maximum of six years. Board directors are elected by the STA membership, by preferential voting through a secret ballot. Voting will occur in the week leading up to the Annual General Meeting by electronic voting with results announced at the AGM. Elected directors commence at the conclusion of the AGM.

Some of the Board Directors are then appointed by the STA Board to serve as Office Bearers in key governance roles outlined below.

The Board meets at least four times per calendar year, usually via video conferencing.

Board directors are not remunerated. STA covers modest travel and accommodation expenses associated with attending Board meetings; offers free registration to STA events; and covers modest travel expenses associated with performing official duties requested by and on behalf of STA.

Position Description: Board Directors

Board Directors of STA exercise the general duties and responsibilities of a Board Director of the Company and are responsible for assisting the President to:

- Oversee the strategic and operational activities of STA;
- Ensure STA remains compliant with all relevant legislations and regulation; and
- Appoint, advise and guide the CEO.

The Board has several Office Bearer roles which chair committees and undertake delegated tasks of the Board. At the first Board meeting following the AGM, the Board confirms these roles and appoints a director to each role. The Board currently has the following roles for directors: Vice President; Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee; Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee; Policy Chair; Governance Chair; and Chair of Bench to Boardroom Committee.

Time commitment

The time commitments for Board Directors varies based on the duties. General Board Directors are required to contribute roughly 2-6 hours per fortnight. This includes attending four meetings of the Board per year, attending relevant committee meetings, attending the AGM, attending STA events when possible (eg. Member meetings, Science meets Parliament), and advising the CEO, and committees of the Board where applicable. Office bearers typically contribute significantly more time – the President, President-elect and Governance Chair contribute many volunteer hours each week to their roles.

Desirable skills, experience and attributes

- Experience in a position of leadership in Australian STEM
- Excellent experience in governance and as a Board Director
- An understanding of STEM sector policy, and an awareness of the policy and political process
- Experience and/or qualifications in one or more of the following areas: finance, business operations, human resources, legal, and research commercialization
- A commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Position Description: President-Elect

The President-Elect exercises the general duties and responsibilities of a Board director of the Company and is responsible for assisting the President to:

- Oversee the strategic and operational activities of STA
- Advise and guide the CEO and Board
- In addition, together with the President and Vice President, or when the President is unavailable, the President-Elect may be called upon to:
 - Represent STA in discussions and meetings with governments and their agencies
 - Represent STA in the media

At the end of the year after their election, the President-Elect becomes President for at least two years.

Time commitment

At least 6 hours a week, including attending four meetings of the Board per year attending the AGM, attending STA events when possible (eg. member meet-ups, Science meets Parliament), and advising the CEO, and committees of the Board where applicable.

Desirable skills, experience and attributes

- Experience in a position of leadership in Australian STEM
- Strong experience in governance and on Boards
- Experience in speaking with the media
- An understanding of STEM sector policy, and an awareness of the policy and political process