



Membership of the Adult Learning Australia Board

Frequently asked questions

Composition of the Board

The ALA Board consists of between 9 and 12 members.

Board members are elected for 3 year terms, on a staggered basis, with one third being elected each year. No more than 3 elected Board members can be based in the same state or territory.

Office bearers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) are elected at the first meeting following the AGM and hold office for one year. The President can hold office for up to 3 consecutive terms.

From time to time, sub-groups are created to assist and bring recommendations to the Board. Currently, sub-groups exist for Finance & Audit, the Australian Journal of Adult Learning, and International Relationships.

Frequency, duration and nature of Board activities

Usually, the Board meets 5 times per year, predominantly via teleconference and/or web based conference. Face-to-face meetings are held once or twice each year. Reasonable travel and accommodation costs associated with face to face meetings are covered by ALA.

In addition to time spent in meetings, time will be required to become familiar with the policy and operating environment of ALA, and to read meeting papers out of session. Board papers are distributed via a web portal.

Board members may from time to time be requested to represent ALA at meetings and/or official functions, particularly in their home state.

Membership of the ALA Board is a voluntary post.

Company structure and personal liability

ALA is a company limited by guarantee and registered with the ACNC as a charity under the 'advancing education' category. Charity ABN: 78533061672.

ALA holds business insurance cover which includes Board members' liability protection.

The work of the Board

The Board manages the physical and financial resources of the organisation at the policy level by overseeing the development of a longer term strategic plan and an annual operational plan and monitoring their implementation.

ALA has adopted the Carver model of Board governance. This is a system that allows the Board to concentrate on higher level policy generation while delegating operations and achievement of objectives to the Senior Management Team, with sufficient controls and reporting mechanisms to be comfortable with that delegation.

The ALA Board is answerable to its members and strives to maintain, clarify, and protect its relationship with its members by keeping in contact with them and hearing their voices.

The ALA Board commits to its members to ethical, businesslike, transparent, open and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Board members. Board members' loyalty to the interests of ALA supersedes any conflicting loyalty to personal or professional interest groups.

The nomination process

Board nominees must be a registered member of ALA and can nominate themselves. The nomination must be seconded by another registered member. Both the nominee and the seconder must have been a registered member of ALA for at least 30 days prior to nomination. Nomination involves submitting an online form, including contact details of a seconder and a short (max 200 words) statement of skills and experience pitched to voting members.