

Information guide

June 2023

Optometry Board of Australia nominated member of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ)

Guide for applicants

This information package includes:

- information about the role
- selection criteria, and
- selection process.

Introduction

The Optometry Board of Australia (the Board) is seeking expressions of interest to be the Board's nominated member of the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ). The person must be a registered optometrist, with previous Board experience under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme).

This is a voluntary position. The successful applicant will not be remunerated.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra) supports the National Boards in managing the registration and notifications for health practitioners and students across Australia.

The Ahpra national office is based in Melbourne with offices in every state and territory to support local boards and committees.

National Boards

The following 15 National Boards regulate the corresponding health professions under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia
- Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
- Chiropractic Board of Australia
- Dental Board of Australia
- Medical Board of Australia
- Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
- Optometry Board of Australia
- Osteopathy Board of Australia
- Paramedicine Board of Australia
- Pharmacy Board of Australia
- Physiotherapy Board of Australia
- Podiatry Board of Australia
- Psychology Board of Australia

Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

The Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ) was established in 1996 with support from the optometrists registration boards in Australia and New Zealand, the Heads of the Optometry Schools, Optometry Australia and the New Zealand Association of Optometrists. All are represented on OCANZ.

OCANZ is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. The Board assigns OCANZ to carry out the accreditation functions under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

OCANZ is the accreditation authority responsible for performing accreditation functions for the optometry profession. These functions include assessment of programs of study in Australia and New Zealand and assessment of internationally qualified optometrists seeking registration in Australia.

Accreditation functions within the National Scheme assure the Board that applicants for registration are suitably qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner.

The OCANZ constitution provides for five members to be appointed as the owners of the company. The Board is a sponsor, which nominates one member.

For more information about OCANZ, please visit the [OCANZ website](#).

Responsibilities

The role of the member is to:

- appoint the Directors and the Auditor
- attend the annual general meeting in November
- attend the joint directors/members meeting in September, and
- receive the annual report and financial statements.

The member will have significant legal responsibilities as the joint 'owners' of OCANZ including oversight of the constitution and the right to vote at general meetings.

OCANZ membership brings with it specific functions and responsibilities under the OCANZ constitution. The nominated member may be required to sign an agreement with OCANZ, accepting to carry out the role in accordance with the constitution.

To download a copy of the OCANZ constitution, please [click here](#).

Commitment

The Board's nominated member of OCANZ is asked to consider the interests of the Board with the understanding they are not an agent of the Board and do not speak on behalf of the Board. The Chair of the Board is the official spokesperson for the Board.

The nominated member will be expected to attend the OCANZ annual general meeting and the joint directors/members meeting either virtually or in person.

The Board requires a brief annual written report summarising the nominee's activities as a member of OCANZ.

Term of appointment

The appointment is for a three-year term with eligibility for reappointment and is expected to commence in September 2023.

Selection criteria

In selecting a nominee, the Board will give regard to the following selection criteria:

- holds current registration with the Board
- has previous experience as a member of a Board under the National Scheme
- is not a current Board member or Board committee member
- is not a current member of a co-regulatory authority
- is not a current elected member of Parliament or public servant
- has not been an OCANZ employee in the past five years, and
- is well-regarded.

Attributes

In addition to the selection criteria, applicants will be required to provide a response to each attribute listed below in the application form:

1. **Displays integrity** is ethical, committed, diligent, prepared, organised, professional, principles-based and respectful; values diversity; and shows courage and independence
2. **Thinks critically:** is objective and impartial; uses logical and analytical processes; distils the core of complex issues and weighs up options
3. **Applies expertise** actively applies relevant knowledge; skills and experience to contribute to decision-making
4. **Communicates constructively:** is articulate, persuasive and diplomatic; is self-aware and reflects on personal impact and effectiveness; listens and responds constructively to contributions from others
5. **Focuses strategically:** takes a broad perspective; can see the big picture; and considers long term impacts
6. **Collaborates in the interests of the National Scheme** is a team player; flexible and cooperative; and creates partnerships within and between boards and Ahpra.

Selection process

A selection advisory will review all applications. Shortlisted applicants may be interviewed. Applicants will also be required to provide information on whether they are a current member of other government or statutory bodies.

The selection advisory panel will make a recommendation of appointment to the Board for approval.