



A Snap-Shot Explanation of the Proposed New Governance Arrangements

Background

The SPA Strategic Plan 2008-10 commits the organisation to reforming its governance structures and documents. Specifically, the Plan states that SPA will review and modify the Constitution, Board structures and governance policies to best align with SPA's strategic direction. The Strategic Plan reflects the aspirations of SPA's members and stakeholders as expressed during the consultations processes undertaken in early 2008.

Why Change?

- More effective representation
- More effective advocacy
- Better governance
- Better accountability

What are the proposed arrangements?

- New structures for representation and governance
- New policies and procedures
- New processes for communication, collaboration and reporting

What are the proposed structures?

<i>AGM</i>	<i>Supreme governing authority; forum for amending SPA's Constitution</i>
<i>SPA Board of Directors</i>	<i>Elected & independent Directors. Ultimate governing and decision-making body, responsibility to reflect the legal obligations for the conduct of SPA's affairs</i>
<i>SPA Forums</i>	<i>Proposal is to have an Annual Expert Forum & State Forums for ideas and debate & to determine policy priorities. Open to all SPA members</i>
<i>SPA Working Groups</i>	<i>Open to all SPA members, task specific (policy or project) and focused on key issues identified by the SPA's Annual Expert Forum and State Forums. Responsible to the Board</i>
<i>EO & Secretariat</i>	<i>Responsible to the Board, support for all forums.</i>

What is the timetable for Change?

1. In November 2008 a package of governance reforms will be provided to all members for consultation. The Board has endorsed the proposed changes and there has already been extensive consultations with stakeholders during the SPA Evaluation & Review carried out earlier in 2008. The Board is seeking feedback on the proposed changes and will require strong support from the membership for the changes to proceed. An online survey will be used to help inform the Board of the views of SPA members regarding the proposed changes.
2. Subject to the feedback from members, a revised Constitution with annotations on the changes will be provided to members in late January 2009.
3. At the AGM (now scheduled for late March 2009), the membership will be asked to formally adopt the new Constitution. An Interim Board will be elected at this meeting and the other elements of the new structure will then become operational.
4. At the AGM in November 2009, the new Constitution and other reforms will be operational and the transition period will be complete.

What does it look like?

See the diagram on the next page

Where to Find Out More

The following documents have been developed and are available from the SPA Website or the Secretariat:

- The Report from the Evaluation of the 2005-8 Strategic Plan & Organisational Review
- The SPA Strategic Plan 2008-10 and Business Plan 2008-9
- Explanatory Notes for the Governance Reform Proposals (these are a more detailed description of the proposals and issues)
- Subject to the feedback in late 2008 from members, a revised Constitution with annotations on proposed changes (available end of Jan 2009)

What should you do?

For further information go to the SPA website (www.suicidepreventionaust.org.au) and read the Explanatory Notes.

Provide feedback to SPA on the proposed changes

Attend the AGM in March or participate in the vote on the proposed changes.

