

## **SASMOA COUNCIL**

### **Frequently asked questions**

*\*Please note that this FAQ is a guide only and should be read in conjunction with the SASMOA Constitution and Rules, which are available online here: [www.sasmoa4doctors.com.au/key-documents](http://www.sasmoa4doctors.com.au/key-documents)*

All SASMOA members are encouraged to get involved in SASMOA. Participation in your Council provides members with a great opportunity to become more actively involved in all aspects of the direction and management of the organisation.

#### **SASMOA is a registered Association**

SASMOA is a member-run Association which represents the industrial interests of salaried medical practitioners employed in the State of South Australia. SASMOA is registered in accordance with the requirements set out in the *Fair Work Act 1994*. As a registered Association, SASMOA is required to have a Constitution and Rules to govern the functioning of the organisation, including the election of the SASMOA Council.

#### **What is the composition of the SASMOA Council?**

The Council is the governing/management body of SASMOA. The members of SASMOA (salaried doctors) elect their Council each year. The 12 elected representatives come from the following defined medical officer groups:

- **Consultants Group and Visiting Medical Officers Group** (6 representatives in total) – the Consultants group includes specialists employed as Consultants and Senior Consultants on either a full or part-time basis, under the SA Medical Officers Award (which includes Clinical Academics) and the VMO Group, which includes any Visiting Medical Officer who is employed on an hourly and non-tenured basis, under the Visiting Medical Specialist Enterprise Agreement. There must be at least one representative from each group.
- **Trainee Medical Officers Group** (3 representatives) – this group includes Interns, Resident Medical Officers and Registrars, whether full-time or part-time.
- **General Group** (3 representatives) - comprising Senior Medical Practitioners and salaried medical officers not included in any of the above groups.

All representatives have equal voting rights on Council.

#### **When are nominations for SASMOA Council called?**

Nominations for positions on SASMOA Council are called annually in March.

#### **What happens if there are more members nominating for a defined medical officer group than positions available?**

If more members nominate for a group than there are positions available, then an election for the group is held. It is common for an election to occur.

#### **Are there any restrictions members should consider before nominating as a representative for SASMOA Council?**

There are a number of Rules to keep in mind:

- You must be a financial member of SASMOA when nominations are called for SASMOA Council.
- You can only nominate for a position on SASMOA Council in your defined medical officer group.
- You must be nominated by another financial SASMOA member from the same medical officer group.

- You can only be on SASMOA Council for six successive years, after which there must be at least a one-year break.
- You cannot nominate for a position on SASMOA Council if Council considers that your nomination creates either an indirect or direct conflict of interest in any matter, or matters, relevant to the Association. The nomination form for SASMOA Council requires you to declare loyalty to SASMOA Council in accordance with the rules and assert any conflict of interest.

### **What is a “conflict of interest”?**

In accordance with the SASMOA rules, management of the Association will be conducted in such a way as to comply with the objects of the rules to the exclusion of the interests of any other association or organisation.

A conflict of interest will include any pecuniary interest and any conflict of loyalty when a person is a member of any governing or controlling body of any other association or organisation. SASMOA Council will determine prior to the commencement of nominations for SASMOA Council, the relevant governing or controlling bodies where a conflict of interest is considered either a direct or indirect conflict of interest relevant to the Association and advise the Returning Officer accordingly. If you are a participant of the named governing or controlling bodies determined by Council, your nomination will not be accepted by the Returning Officer.

If after commencement on SASMOA Council you have a direct or indirect conflict of interest in any matter, or matters, relevant to the Association you must, as soon as you become aware of the conflict, disclose the nature and extent of the conflict to the Council.

### **Is there a SASMOA Council Executive?**

The SASMOA Council, once determined, will elect a President, Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer from within its members, and appoint an Honorary Secretary. These people form the Executive.

### **What do Council members do on SASMOA Council?**

A SASMOA council member represents the views and concerns of their medical group and the concerns of the membership as a whole regarding industrial and workplace issues. The role can include the following:

- Advocating for salaried doctors regarding legislation and government policies affecting salaried doctors.
- Raising workplace issues which affect salaried doctor members of the Association.
- Taking a leading role in Enterprise Bargaining negotiations.
- Communicating with salaried doctors to inform them of the SASMOA position on issues affecting them, canvassing members’ views, and promoting membership of SASMOA.

### **When does SASMOA Council meet?**

SASMOA Council meets on the second Thursday of each month, at 6.30pm. The Business Paper is sent out a week prior to the scheduled meeting for preparation for the meeting.

### **What happens when a SASMOA Council member is unable to attend a meeting?**

If a member of SASMOA Council is unable to attend a meeting they will be recorded as an apology. The quorum of the Council is one half of its voting members with the majority of groups represented.

### **Where can I get more information about SASMOA Council?**

If you are interested and would like more information on the role and responsibilities of a SASMOA Councillor, please contact the SASMOA office on 8267 5151 and request to speak to the SASMOA Chief Industrial Officer.