

Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect)'s Board and management place importance on high standards for ethical behaviour, governance and accountability in Aspect's day to day operations and business. The organisation is:

- a company limited by guarantee;
- operating as a not-for-profit charity with public benevolent institution and deductible gift recipient status.

The organisation is governed by the Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) Constitution, which is approved by Aspect's Members.

The Board's governance responsibilities are further elaborated in Aspect's Corporate Governance Statement. This Statement is based on the requirements identified in Corporations law, the ACNC Governance Standards, Aspect's Constitution, the Regulations of Aspect and principles agreed to by the Board in its operation. The Statement outlines the processes and practices undertaken within Aspect that enable and support the governance of the organisation, including:

- how the Board meets Aspect's financial, legislative, regulatory and contractual responsibilities;
- how the Board monitors and responds to quality and safeguarding matters associated with delivering services to the people we support;
- the responsibilities of a number of key governance roles; and
- the nomination of new Board Directors, vacancy management, Board Director training; Board performance reviews and Board conduct in line with the Aspect Constitution and the Regulations of Aspect. All Board members sign declarations to ensure that they are fit and proper responsible persons for Aspect's education and NDIS service provision environments.

The Constitution, Regulations and Corporate Governance Statement are regularly reviewed and are available to all stakeholders on the Aspect website.

The Board meets seven times each year and is supported by four committees, these being the:

- Finance, People & Audit Committee (ten meetings each year);
- Fundraising & Communications Committee (up to three meetings each year);
- Governance Committee (six meetings each year); and
- Strategy Committee (up to five meetings each year).

Integral to Aspect's governance is the Aspect Advisory Council which comprises seven autistic adults. The Council provides direct advice to the Board and the Aspect Executive on Aspect's governance, strategy and risk.

The terms of reference and delegations for each Board committee and the Council are detailed in the Regulations of Aspect.

The Governance Committee takes particular responsibility for all matters in relation to governance; quality, compliance and regulatory risks; as well as reviewing and monitoring Aspect's policy framework. This ensures there is a compliance process and responsible persons are in place to monitor the performance of management, including responses to restrictive practice governance requirements, individual issues as required; to drive continuous improvement in management practices and reduce the risk of any legislative non-compliance.

Aspect maintains all governance, fundraising and financial compliance related reporting as required by federal, state and territory governments' regulation of charitable organisations.

External Framework

The Governance Framework policy outlines Aspect's compliance with:

- NDIS Practice Standards (2018) and NDIS Code of Conduct, specifically within the NDIS Practice Standards & Quality Indicators:
 - Core Module: 1. Rights and Responsibilities, under the relevant Outcomes.
 - Core Module: 2. Provider Governance and Operational Management, all Outcomes.
- Disability Standards for Education (2005), specifically:
 - Part 3: Making reasonable adjustments.
 - Part 7: Standards for student support services.
 - Part 8: Standards for Harassment and Victimisation.
 - Part 10: Exemptions.
- NESA Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW Manual), specifically:
 - 3. Requirements for Registered Non-government Schools, under requirements for Proprietor and principal of the school; Facilities; Buildings and Premises; Safe and Supportive Environment; Management and Operation of the School; Financial Viability and Educational and Financial Reporting.
- Standards for Registration and Review of Registration of Schools in South Australia, specifically the relevant quality related criteria for:
 - Standard 1 School Governance.
 - Standard 3 Student Safety, Health and Welfare.

Legislation References

National

Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)
Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Standards 2013 (Cth)
Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth)
Australian Education Amendment Bill 2017 (Cth)
Building Code of Australia 2016
Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)
Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)
Disability Services Act 1986 (Cth)
Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth)
National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013 (Cth)
National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Quality and Safeguards Commission and other measures) Bill 2017 (Cth)
National Standards for Disability Services 2014 (Cth)
Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
Privacy Amendment (Enhancing privacy protection) Act 2012 (Cth)
Privacy Amendment Act (Private Sector) Act 2000 (Cth)
Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)

New South Wales

Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW)
Child Protection (working with children) Act 2012 (NSW)
Education Act 1990 (NSW)
Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (NSW)
Explosives Act 2003 (NSW)
Independent Commission against corruption Act 1988 (NSW)
Ombudsman Act 1974 (NSW)
Public Interest Disclosures Act 1994 (NSW)
Teacher Accreditation Act 2004 (NSW)
Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (NSW)

Victoria


Children Youth and Families Act 2005 (VIC)
Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (VIC)
Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 (VIC)
Ombudsman Act 1973 (VIC)
Protected Disclosure Act 2012 (VIC)

South Australia

Education Act 1972 (SA)
Education and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011 (SA)
Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA)
Explosives Act 1936 (SA)
Family and Community Services Act 1972 (SA)
Ombudsman Act 1972 (SA)
Whistle blowers Protection Act 1993 (SA)
Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)

Australian Capital Territory

Discrimination Act 1991 (ACT)
Ombudsman Act 1989 (ACT)



Public Disclosure Act 2012 (ACT)
Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT)
Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011