

Justice Health & Forensic Mental Health Network Board Charter

The Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network is a statutory New South Wales Specialty Health Network responsible for the delivery of healthcare to those in contact with the forensic mental health and criminal justice systems across community, hospital and custodial settings.

Members are appointed, for fixed terms, by the Minister for Health. The Board of the Justice Health and Forensic Mental Health Network provides governance oversight for the Network. The Board is responsible for the strategic direction of the Network through overseeing the development of a long term vision for the Network and a five year strategic plan in collaboration with the Chief Executive, with annual updates and reviews of the plan.

The Board is also responsible for horizon scanning for issues relevant to the Network. The Board is not involved in day to day operational management, but is charged with overseeing Network performance. Board members are appointed as a result of their skills and experience and have the appropriate mix of skills to provide guidance to the Network.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Chair

- Provides leadership to the Board and ensures its cohesiveness and effective operation
- Provides a link between the Board and Network management and the Board and the Minister
- Evaluates Board member performance
- Ensures overall Board performance is evaluated regularly
- Undertakes an annual review of the performance of the Chief Executive and negotiates a Performance Agreement each year
- Represents the Board on external entities
- Acts as an official spokesperson

Board Members

- Carry out their roles and responsibilities in the best interests of the Network and the community and maintain a duty of care and diligence in the public interest and the interests of Network staff and those in its care. When acting in good faith and in accordance with their statutory duties, Board members are provided with indemnity for their actions
- Maintain knowledge and awareness of the paramount role and responsibilities of the Network
- Prepare adequately for and attend Board meetings as required
- Attend educational programs provided by the Network and maintain continuing knowledge
- Participate effectively in meetings of the Board
- Comply with all relevant laws and policy directives
- Participate, if invited, in committees and support the Board's operations

Board Meetings

- The Board will meet regularly, with at least six ordinary meetings annually, including an annual public meeting
- Board members are encouraged to nominate items for inclusion on the Board agenda. Agenda items should be accompanied by a paper to provide the information necessary to support informed decision making by the Board
- The Board will invite Network and other personnel to Board meetings to provide information and assist in decision making
- Board papers are to be made available in advance of each meeting (at least seven calendar days) and Board minutes are required to be published for public information
- The Board is responsible for the approval and monitoring of the Network's Strategic Plan

