



Board Member Brief

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board is created under the By Laws of the Safety Institute of Australia. As such it is auspiced by the Safety Institute of Australia but is independent in its decision-making regarding standards and accreditation of OHS education programs.

Purpose

To contribute to work health and safety by facilitating the education of graduates equipped with the knowledge and skills to enter the workplace as effective entry-level OHS professionals. The core activity of the Board is through accreditation to recognise those programs that meet standards established by the Board.

Vision

OHS professional education is based on strong scientific and technical concepts, evidenced-informed, delivered by suitably competent persons and so recognised by the profession, government, industry and the community.

Mission

To ensure that OHS professional education is based on educational design and review processes, and delivery of learning appropriate to develop graduates.

Role

The role of the Accreditation Board is to approve and oversee the accreditation process to ensure appropriate governance of the process and that appropriate standards are maintained. Specifically, the Board shall manage the OHS education accreditation process by:

- Approving guidelines and operating procedures for accreditation
- Receiving and reviewing preliminary/provisional accreditation recommendations from the assessment panel
- Endorsing recommendations made by the assessment panel or recommending alternative or additional actions including seeking additional information, making visits or other appropriate actions
- Monitoring information on accredited courses between accreditation cycles and taking action as appropriate
- Maintaining a register of appropriately qualified and trained persons from which persons are drawn to form individual assessment panels for the purpose of evaluating applications
- Appointing people to individual accreditation assessment panels
- Maintaining links with institutions providing accredited programs
- Maintaining links with employers, workers, regulators and the community to ensure relevance and currency of program accreditation criteria
- Developing and maintaining a network of OHS educators
- Seeking advice from relevant external agencies on matters relating to OHS education
- Maintaining links with like-purpose national and international bodies
- Acting as 'custodian' of the OHS Body of Knowledge
- Reporting quarterly to the Board of the Safety Institute of Australia.

The work of the Accreditation Board is supported by a Registrar.



Composition of the Board

In addition to the Registrar, the Board will have broad national representation including:

- Senior OHS professionals (min 2;
- Senior OHS academics (min 2, from different universities)
- Senior education academic (min 1)
- Industry including employer and union (min 2)
- Representative of the Safety Institute of Australia (SIA) (1)
- Representative of the Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH) (1)
- Representative of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA) (1)
- Representative of the Australian New Zealand Society for Occupational Medicine (ANZSOM) (1)
- Representative of the Australian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM) (1)
- Representative of an OHS regulator/policy maker (min 1).

Role of Board members

The role of the individual Board members is to support achievement of the objectives of the Board. This requires Board members to:

- Contribute to and approve policies and procedures for management of the Board and for the accreditation process
- Prepare for and attending board meetings
- Declare any potential or actual conflict of interest
- Complete training on the assessment process and making decisions based on the accreditation criteria
- Review, evaluate and make decisions on the accreditation of courses based on reports prepared by the accreditation assessment panels
- From time to time, participate in assessment panels
- Promote the role of the Board to the profession, industry and the community.

Membership

Membership of the Board is an honorary non-executive position, however travel expenses for meetings and for participation in assessment panels is reimbursed.

Members the Board are appointed as individuals based on their expertise and experience related to the activities of OHS professionals and the education of OHS professionals. Nominated representatives of the OHS professional bodies (SIA, AIOH, HFESA, ANZSOM and AFOEM) are required to be familiar with education matters related to their discipline, hold an OHS-related university-level qualification and be familiar with the role of the generalist OHS professional. The OHS professionals shall be members of the Safety Institute of Australia and certified as a Chartered OHS Professionals (ChOHSP) or Certified OHS Professional (COHSProf) holding tertiary qualifications in OHS. OHS academic members will have experience in the design and/or delivery of OHS professional education programs that meet the requirements for an eligible program for accreditation. Where practical, gender diversity, geographical location, industry and nature of employment will be considered to ensure breadth of representation on the Accreditation Board.