

Youth Board Member, Australian Red Cross Society

About Australian Red Cross Society

Australian Red Cross ('the Society') is part of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the world's largest humanitarian organisation.

As an organisation, independent of government, and with no political, religious or cultural affiliation, our aim is to improve people's lives and build their resilience – no matter who they are or where they live.

Our vision | human dignity, peace, safety and well-being for all.

Our purpose | supporting and empowering people and communities in times of vulnerability, preventing and alleviating suffering across Australia and internationally through mobilising the power of humanity.

We are more than 2,300 staff and 20,700 volunteers in humanitarian operations, 14,000 members, and 460,000 blood donors and 3,500 Blood Service staff, working from more than 460 sites. We help more than 15 Red Cross and Red Crescent sister national societies with the support of over 200,000 generous donors.

About Governance of the Society

Australian Red Cross Society is a body corporate established by Royal Charter. The Royal Charter and the Rules, which together are the equivalent of the Society's 'Constitution', provide for the key governance bodies of the Society – an elected Council, Red Cross Lifeblood with its own Board, and the Society's Board.

The Society has eight Divisions, one in each State and Territory of Australia, in each of which is a Divisional Advisory Board ("DAB") consisting of up to 12 people, the majority of whom are elected.

Each year the Council holds an Annual General Meeting ("AGM") which receives reports on the previous year's operations and appoints or elects the President, Deputy President, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, Youth Member and any Additional Board Members.

Governance responsibilities relating specifically to Australian Red Cross Lifeblood

Under the Rules, the Society has established Australian Red Cross Lifeblood as a distinct operational component of the Society.

The Society's Board appoints a Lifeblood Board which has immediate responsibility for the governance of the operations of Lifeblood and, specifically, general oversight of the management of Lifeblood. However, the Society's Board retains overall responsibility for Lifeblood.

Key responsibilities

Board Members are responsible for contributing to the appropriate strategic direction for the Society, for the achievement of the highest standards of governance and for supporting the Board to meet its responsibilities to:

- Ensure the financial viability, solvency, and sustainability of the Society
- Preserve and promote the reputation of the Society
- Ensure the effective management of risk
- Ensure an appropriate framework is in place to effect compliance with applicable legislation, regulation, policies and procedure

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- Board Members may be required to participate in Board Committee meetings, as appropriate
 - Contribute to the Board fulfilling its role and responsibilities
 - Contribute to the efficient and effective conduct of business at Council, Board and Committee meetings, enabling constructive discussion and collaborative decision making.
 - Participate in periodic reviews of the Board's performance
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Skills, Experience and Attributes

- Strategic foresight and focus
 - Experience and understanding of the digital economy and of digital transformation, disintermediation and disruption
 - Applied entrepreneurship and social business
 - Risk management
 - Experience of business transformation and organisational change
 - Experience in youth governance and / or youth participation as a strategic approach
 - Highly effective influencing, engaging, communication and interpersonal skills with ability to facilitate and engage in constructive debate
 - Critical thinking and questioning skills
 - High levels of Emotional Intelligence
 - Collaborative and collegiate
 - Culturally aware and appropriate, demonstrating cultural competency
 - An understanding of the principles and operation of good governance
 - Understanding of and capability to carry out the statutory duties of a Board member of a registered charity under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*
 - Capability to effectively represent the Society in dealings with stakeholders including members, other components of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, government, the corporate sector, donors and the community
 - Understanding of and commitment to the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
 - Demonstrated understanding of the needs of the communities served by the Society, including:
 - Volunteering and engaging volunteers
 - The impact of responding to and recovering from disasters
 - international issues such as migration, international humanitarian law and humanitarian aid;
 - Promoting non-violence and working to prevent human suffering during conflict
 - Working with vulnerable people to improve their well being
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Election and term of office

- The Youth Board Member is normally elected at the AGM, for a term of 2 years. A Youth Board Member can be re-elected for a further 2 terms, for a maximum term of 6 years, subject to the General Conditions set out below. This election in 2020 is to fill a casual vacancy position for 12 months, in addition to the above maximum term. The future process for election may change following the outcomes of the youth governance review which is currently under way.
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- This is a non-remunerated role, with expenses covered to attend meetings in accordance with the Australian Red Cross Domestic Travel Policy.
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Time commitment

Board Meetings are held monthly either virtually or face to face on a Friday, and when face to face occur they could also be held on a Saturday.

In addition there are several Board Committees, and you may be invited to be a member of a committee.

In addition to these formal commitments, Board Members are required to devote time to building relationships with other members of the Board, and with the Society's Management, and to establishing understanding and contextual knowledge of the Society's operations in Australia and overseas.

General Conditions

In accordance with requirements applicable to all Red Cross staff and volunteers, Board Members are required to:

- undertake a satisfactory police record check prior to acceptance of the nomination
 - comply with the work health and safety management system
 - support a child safe organisation by undertaking screening for suitability to work with children, youth and vulnerable people and complying with relevant legislative requirements
 - sign the Ethical Framework
 - become a paid governance member of the Society
 - The National Youth Board Member must be aged 29 or under at the date of the appointment by the Council (in 2020, this is 1 December 2020)
 - assist the organisation, as required, in the event of national, state or local emergencies or disasters.
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