



AAG
Australian
Association of
Gerontology



ATSIAAG
Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Ageing Advisory Group

AAG Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Advisory Group (ATSIAAG)

Terms of Reference

Background

The first formal meeting of the AAG Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Committee took place at the 39th National AAG Conference, Sydney in November 2006. In 2013 it was agreed to change the name to the AAG Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ageing Advisory Group (ATSIAAG), to reflect its critical advisory role to the then AAG Council, which was replaced by the AAG Board of Directors later the same year. At the same time Mark Elliott was appointed as the inaugural Aboriginal Chair of ATSIAAG. In November 2018 Mark stepped down as Chair, when Roslyn Malay and Graham Aitken became the Co-chairs of ATSIAAG but still is actively engaged in the ATSIAAG Executive, which is the leadership group.

In April 2018 'Friends of ATSIAAG' was set up for non-indigenous members of AAG with an interest in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ageing.

Purpose

ATSIAAG reports to the AAG Board to advise on all issues related to ageing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. This ensures that the AAG is able to represent the First Peoples of Australia in the ageing policy and practice arena in an informed and collaborative way.

The ATSIAAG achieves this through:

- Advocating, promoting and championing the needs of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ageing sector.
- Building the evidence and highlighting gaps, challenges and opportunities, as well as provide guidance regarding older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Acting as a point of contact within AAG and providing advice around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander aged care issues.
- Consultation and the development of partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, communities and organisation
- providing direction and guidance, as well as directly participating in AAG in preparing, planning and delivering the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activities at the annual AAG National Conference, as well as other initiatives.

Area	Effective Date	Last Review Date	Version	Responsibility	Next Review Date
ATSIAAG	June 2020	August 2020	1.1	Board	June 2021

Structure

ATSIAAG is an Advisory Group and reports directly to the AAG Board.

ATSIAAG has a chair or co-chairs elected every three years.

ATSIAAG Executive's support the ATSIAAG through guiding all relevant ATSIAAG activities including seeking feedback from the broader ATSIAAG membership, whilst also progressing operational decision making.

The ATSIAAG is supported by the AAG CEO and an ATSIAAG Officer, a new role from May 2020.

Term and review

This Terms of Reference is ongoing and will be reviewed annually initially.

Membership

ATSIAAG

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are provided AAG membership at no cost and discounts to AAG Conferences and other activities.

All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of AAG are invited to join ATSIAAG. It is not compulsory or automatic.

ATSIAAG members provide feedback to ideas, themes and materials, as well as receive invitations to events and activities. They may be invited to represent ATSIAAG at external activities such as launches of relevant policies or internal activities such as joining the AAG Conference Planning Committee or engage in the Yarn Up or ATSIAAG Workshop at the annual AAG Conference.

ATSIAAG Chair (or Co Chairs)

The ATSIAAG Chair (or Co-Chair) is a position/s that is elected every three years from the ATSIAAG membership, following an open and transparent recruitment process. The Chair (or Co-chairs) can renominate for a maximum of one further three-year term.

ATSIAAG Executive

ATSIAAG Executive's purpose is to guide all relevant ATSIAAG activities including seeking feedback from the broader ATSIAAG membership, whilst also progressing operational decision making.

Friends of ATSIAAG

Friends of ATSIAAG are a group that enables interested non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander AAG members to keep informed of developments in this area, and to link with and support the work of ATSIAAG. They may be invited to attend activities and events such as the Yarn Up or ATSIAAG Workshop at the annual AAG Conference or otherwise support the work of ATSIAAG.

Amendment, Modification or Variation

The Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement amongst AAG ATSIAAG Executive members.

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Attachment 1

ATSIAAG Executive

Purpose

Its purpose is to closely guide ATSIAAG activities including when and how feedback is sought from the broader ATSIAAG membership, whilst also progressing operational decision making.

Membership

The membership of the ATSIAAG Executive is made up made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders who are AAG Members of ATSIAAG.

The ATSIAAG Executive is led by the ATSIAAG Chair (or Co-Chairs) drawn from the ATSIAAG membership with the intention of being representative of the diverse geographical, gender, knowledge and experience which is constitutive of the ATSIAAG membership. It meets every six weeks.

ATSIAAG members may nominate to be a member of the Executive with the final approval of the appointment made by the Executive on a consensus basis.

The ATSIAAG Executive is supported by an AAG Board representative, Friends of ATSIAAG Member(s) and AAG staff who are ex officio, namely AAG's CEO, ATSIAAG Officer.

Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the ATSIAAG Executive commit to:

- championing awareness of the needs of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within and outside of AAG.
- representing ATSIAAG at appropriate AAG and ageing focussed events.
- sharing all communications and information amongst ATSIAAG Executive members.
- attending all scheduled ATSIAAG Executive meetings.
- making timely decisions and taking action so as to not hold up the ATSIAAG Executive.
- Reviewing and providing comments as required in a timely manner.

Meetings

- Meetings to be chaired by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person.
- A Quorum will be achieved when 2 or more ATSIAAG Executive members are present, including at least one AAG staff member ex officio.
- Meetings will be held every six (6) weeks for one hour.
- Meeting agendas and/or papers will be provided by AAG National Office a week in advance.

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