



Australian  
Rheumatology  
Association

**2020-23**  
**Strategic**  
**Plan**



# Purpose

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To support members and other health professionals to provide the best possible care for people with musculoskeletal and related inflammatory conditions



# Top Priorities

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**Workforce**

**Training**

**Research**

**Policy**

**Services**

# Workforce



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**  
what we need to achieve



**GOALS**  
what we are working for in each objective



**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**  
what we are doing to achieve our objectives



**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**



Specific  
**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**



Optimise the rheumatology workforce to better deliver care to people with musculoskeletal disease



Understanding of the rheumatology workforce to provide relevant information to support members and contribute to national workforce policy with goal of equity of access of patients with musculoskeletal disease with expert rheumatological care



Develop member workforce dataset  
Undertake workforce needs analysis to identify gaps in service delivery, waiting lists, rural and regional requirements  
Address lack of training positions for paediatric rheumatologists



Best practice governance, operations and financial accountability with appropriate committee and executive support.  
Identification and prioritization of relationships with key stakeholders and key partner organisations.



Gather workforce data at time of membership renewal  
Engage external organisation to aid with workforce analysis needs

# Training, education & professional development



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**  
what we need to achieve



**GOALS**  
what we are working for in each objective



**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**  
what we are doing to achieve our objectives



**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**



Specific  
**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**



Provide/support high quality professional development and training opportunities for ARA members



Deliver high quality relevant education, training and professional development for all ARA members as well as other relevant health professionals and undergraduates



- Support of Annual Scientific Meeting, national and state meetings and webinars
- Develop Speakers Bureau on website
- Develop interprofessional resources/microcredentials
- Consider trainee selection guidance
- Develop community education



Best practice governance, operations and financial accountability with appropriate committee and executive support.  
Identification and prioritization of relationships with key stakeholders and key partner organisations.



- Website; Social media
- Good governance and support of EWTC and ASMPC

# Research



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**  
what we need to achieve



**GOALS**  
what we are working for in each objective



**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**  
what we are doing to achieve our objectives



**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**



Specific  
**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**



Increase the profile, volume and quality of musculoskeletal research in Australia



Improve musculoskeletal research opportunities for all members



Confirm and communicate goals of the Research Trust  
Review distribution of ARA Research Trust funds (RC&SAB)  
Facilitate interactions and collaborations with researchers and clinicians in ARA to increase research activity  
Work with other groups including NHMRC, ANZMUSC, AA, ANZVASC and ARAD/A3BC Biobank  
Foster development of research groups in private practice and hospital departments



Best practice governance, operations and financial accountability with appropriate committee and executive support.  
Identification and prioritization of relationships with key stakeholders and key partner organisations.



Use of Research Trust funds to improve opportunities to support musculoskeletal research

# Policy & Advocacy



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

what we need to achieve



## GOALS

what we are working for in each objective



## STRATEGIC ACTIONS

what we are doing to achieve our objectives



## STRATEGIC ENABLERS



## Specific STRATEGIC ENABLERS

- Develop appropriate policies for ARA
- Advocate at local, state and federal government level for best practice care of musculoskeletal disease
- Development of high quality and evidence-based policies
- Advocate to improve profile of rheumatology health professionals
- Timely response to government and other agencies in areas of importance to ARA
- Establish guiding principles, policy suite and values statement
- Develop and review Position Statements and clinical recommendations
- Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to create patient resources
- Increase profile of rheumatology nationally and internationally
  - Support ARA members participation and engagement in government and other expert groups
  - Continue to build ARA profile in the media
  - Continue to endorse Australian rheumatology departments that fulfil criteria for the APLAR Center of Excellence Award
  - ARA President or nominee to attend APLAR ASM
- Advocate for patients with rheumatic diseases
- Continue to provide advice to government and other external organisations
- Develop branding for organisation
- Best practice governance, operations and financial accountability with appropriate committee and executive support.
- Identification and prioritization of relationships with key stakeholders and key partner organisations.
- Appropriate support of committees and members to undertake.
- Undertake employment of Committee Support Officer to support committees and ARA members

# Member Services



**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**  
what we need to achieve



**GOALS**  
what we are working for in each objective



**STRATEGIC ACTIONS**  
what we are doing to achieve our objectives



**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**



Specific  
**STRATEGIC ENABLERS**

- Improve member experience and profile of ARA
- Improve communication and engagement with members  
• Improve resources for members
- Review methods and frequency of communications with members
- Reinvigorate 'All members Forum' at ASM independent of AGM
- Develop a standard post-Board meeting presentation for use at state meetings
- Update website including 'Find a member'
- Support Clinical Resources Committee to improve resources, recommendations, patient Information, GP/AHP information
- Investigate the development of Apps for members and public
- Collate and develop
- Informational resources for private practice management
- Best practice governance, operations and financial accountability with appropriate committee and executive support.
- Identification and prioritization of relationships with key stakeholders and key partner organisations.
- Website (find a members)
- Standard presentations for use at state meetings
- Undertake employment of Committee Support Officer to support committees and ARA members



# Board



**President**  
Professor Catherine Hill

**Vice-President** - Dr Claire Barrett

**Treasurer** - Associate Professor Philip Robinson

**Secretary** - Dr Helen Cooley

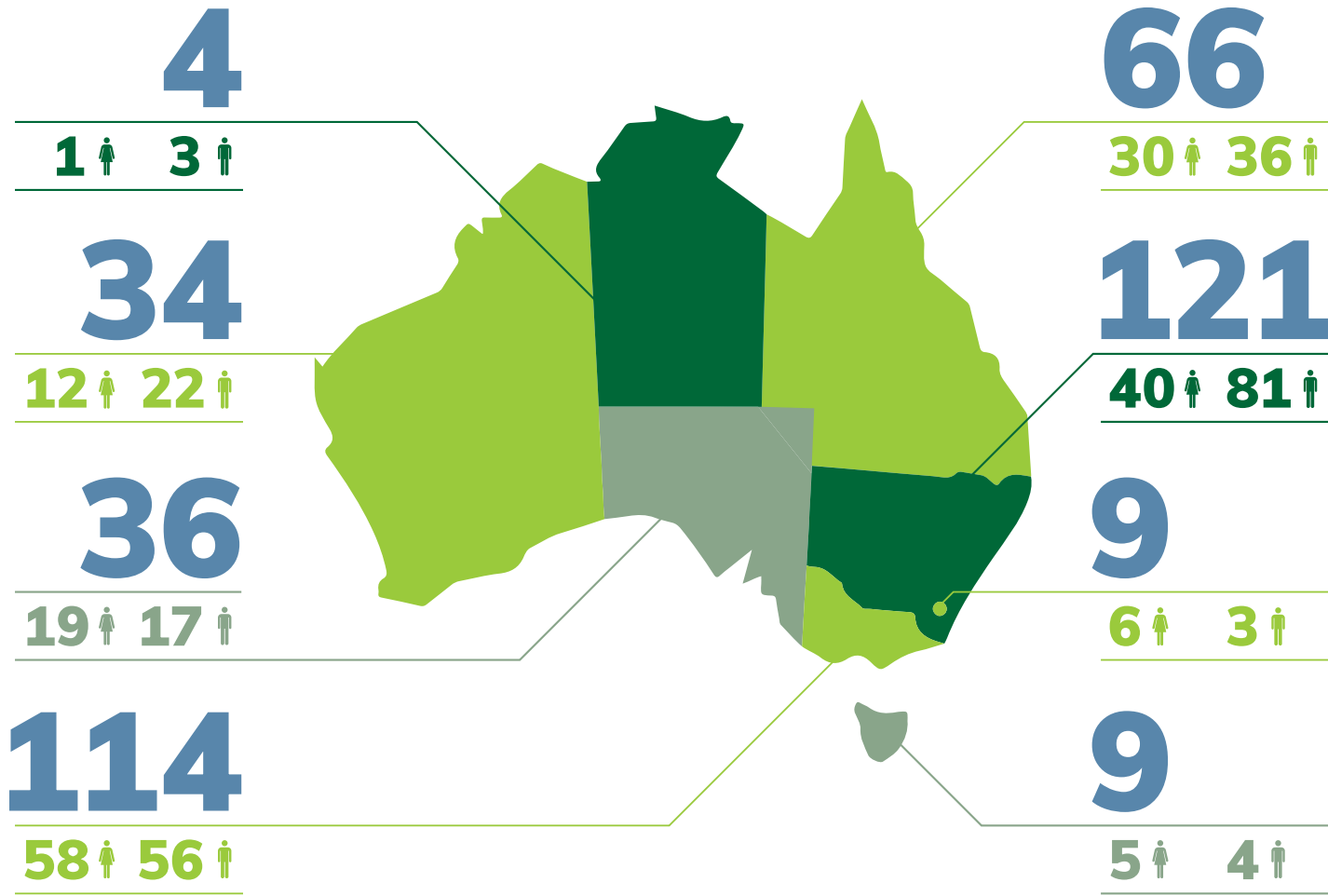
**Director NSW/ACT** - Dr Arvin Damodaran

**Director VIC / TAS** - Associate Professor Anne Powell

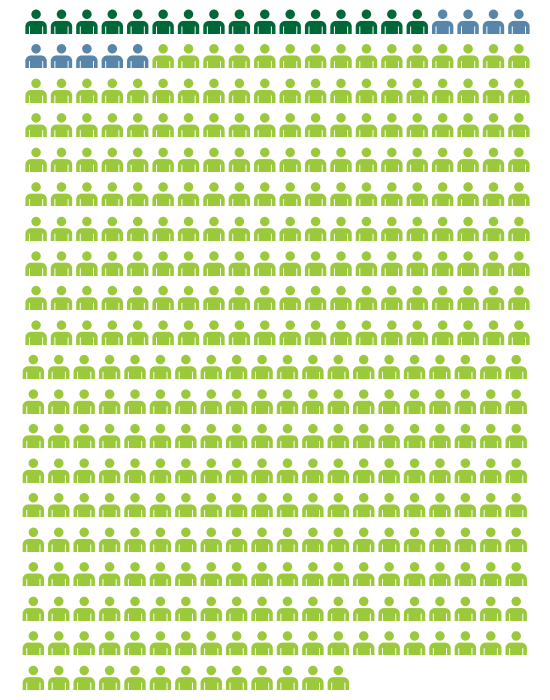
**Director SA** - Dr Sam Whittle

**Director WA** - Associate Professor Rob K Will

**Director QLD** - Dr David Careless



**16** paediatric rheumatologists    **11** paediatric & adult



**366** adult rheumatologists

Associate Members <b>104</b>	Non-medical Members <b>64</b>	International <b>22</b>	Rheumatologist Members <b>393</b>
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**583** **Members** **TOTAL**  
As at May 2020



# Appendix

Strategic actions related to

## GOVERNANCE, OPERATIONS, FINANCES and COMMITTEES

**OBJECTIVES:** To deliver best practice governance and financial responsibility

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**GOALS:** To be an effective accountable and sustainable organisation for ARA members

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**ACTIONS:**

- 1) Support State groups, Committees, SIGs, working and study groups
- 2) Ensure good governance and compliance
- 3) Review Company Secretary role and appointment
- 4) Review committee structure, level of support by staff and composition (eg nonmedical)
- 5) Annual review of the ASM Sponsorship document
- 6) Identify alternative sources of accessible funding to support education and rheumatology including government and non-government sources and including non-pharma industries
- 7) Review and evaluate investments and investment policy and consider disbursement policy



# Appendix

Strategic actions related to

## PARTNERSHIPS

**OBJECTIVES:** To improve relationships with key partner organisations.

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**GOALS:** Identify and prioritise relationships with key stakeholders and key partner organisations

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**ACTIONS:**

- 1) Development of MOU with Arthritis Australia and ANZMUSC
- 2) Define relationships with pharmaceutical industry
- 3) Liaise with tertiary institutions
- 4) Explore working with suitable suppliers and sponsors