

Help Shape a Future Where No Australian Faces Arthritis Alone

September 2026

Location: Australia (National)

Position Type: Non-Executive Director

Remuneration: Voluntary Board Position (reasonable expenses reimbursed)

Term: Three-year appointment, eligible for reappointment in accordance with the Constitution

About Arthritis Australia

Arthritis Australia is the national peak organisation representing the interests of Australians living with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions. For more than 75 years, we have provided trusted information, supported research, influenced policy, championed accessibility, and advocated for better care and outcomes for millions of Australians. Over 7 million Australians live with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions, making these among the most prevalent chronic health challenges facing our community.

As Arthritis Australia continues to strengthen its impact and national influence, we are seeking outstanding leaders to join our Board and help guide the organisation through its next phase of growth, advocacy and innovation.

The Board

Arthritis Australia is governed by an independent Board of Directors responsible for setting the organisation's strategic direction, safeguarding its long-term sustainability, and ensuring it fulfils its charitable purpose and obligations. Working through a framework of sound governance, Board policies and committee oversight, Directors collectively oversee strategy, financial stewardship, risk management, compliance and organisational performance, while supporting the Chief Executive Officer to deliver the organisation's mission.

The Board is committed to acting in the best interests of people living with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions and fostering a culture of accountability, transparency, integrity and inclusion across all areas of the organisation

Key Responsibilities

Directors are collectively responsible for:

- Providing strategic leadership and oversight.
- Ensuring effective governance and compliance with legal and regulatory obligations.

- Monitoring organisational performance, risk and financial sustainability.
- Supporting the development and execution of the organisation's strategic plan.
- Contributing to policy, advocacy and stakeholder engagement activities.
- Acting in the best interests of Arthritis Australia and its stakeholders.
- Supporting a culture of integrity, accountability, inclusion and innovation.
- Serving on Board committees as required.

The Opportunity

In 2026, the Arthritis Australia Board undertook a structured self-assessment against a comprehensive Board Skills Matrix, mapping collective capability across strategic and governance competencies aligned to the organisation's 2024 - 2029 strategy.

The assessment highlighted capability areas where the Board has identified opportunities to deepen its collective strength including:

- Marketing, communications and reputation.
- Government relations and advocacy.
- Digital and technology governance.
- Legal, Regulatory and Compliance.
- People and culture leadership.
- Fundraising, partnerships and revenue diversification.

This is a healthy and proactive outcome, reflecting a Board that is self-aware, forward-looking and deliberate in how it builds capability into the future. The capabilities listed are those that will complement and extend what the current Board already does well.

It is important to note that the Board does not expect, nor is it necessary, for any individual Director to hold deep expertise across all priority areas. The objective is to ensure that the Board, as a whole, maintains sufficient breadth and depth of capability to govern effectively through a period of significant strategic change.

We are seeking up to two (2) experienced and values-driven non-executive Directors who are passionate about improving the lives of Australians affected by arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions.

As a Director, you will work collaboratively with fellow Board members and the CEO to provide strategic leadership, ensure sound governance, oversee organisational performance and contribute to the long-term sustainability and impact of Arthritis Australia.

This is an opportunity to contribute your expertise to an organisation that is making a tangible difference to the lives of millions of Australians.

Directors must satisfy the eligibility requirements contained in the Arthritis Australia Constitution, including being independent of Affiliate Members and meeting any applicable regulatory and charitable governance requirements.

Skills and Experience

Applications are welcomed from leaders across Australia with demonstrated governance experience and a commitment to improving health outcomes.

Core Director Competencies and Capabilities:

All Directors must possess the following core competencies and capabilities. These apply in addition to the specialist skill profile for which you are nominating.

Core competencies

Financial acumen	Financial literacy to support oversight of performance, investments and financial reporting integrity
Corporate Governance	Understanding of director duties, governance standards and experience at Board or committee level
Legal, regulatory and compliance	Ability to oversee legal and regulatory obligations and identify emerging compliance risks
Risk Management	Ability to oversee enterprise risk, contribute to risk appetite and ensure appropriate frameworks are in place

Core Capabilities

A commitment to the mission and values of Arthritis Australia
Sound judgement and strategic thinking
High ethical standards and integrity
Strong collaboration and stakeholder engagement skills
The ability to constructively challenge and contribute in a boardroom environment
A willingness to devote the time and energy required to fulfil the role
Respect for diversity, equity and inclusion

Priority / Specialist Skills

The Board welcomes candidates with expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Marketing, communications and reputation.
- Government relations and advocacy.
- Digital and technology governance.
- Legal, Regulatory and Compliance.
- People and culture leadership.
- Fundraising, partnerships and revenue diversification.

Previous board experience is desirable but not essential for candidates who can demonstrate strong executive leadership, strategic thinking and governance capability.

Expectations

The Board typically meets 4–6 times each year, with meetings conducted both virtually and in person.

Directors are expected to:

- Attend Board meetings and annual strategic planning activities.

- Participate in at least one Board committee.
- Review board papers and prepare adequately for meetings.
- Actively contribute to governance discussions and organisational priorities.
- Represent Arthritis Australia at selected stakeholder and industry events where appropriate.

Directors are volunteers and remuneration is not paid to the Directors. The costs of travel, accommodation, and any out-of-pocket expenses for attendance at meetings are covered by Arthritis Australia.

Under the company constitution, the usual term of appointment for a Director is three years, with a maximum of three terms.

Personal Attributes

Successful candidates will demonstrate:

- A commitment to the mission and values of Arthritis Australia.
- Sound judgement and strategic thinking.
- High ethical standards and integrity.
- Strong collaboration and stakeholder engagement skills.
- The ability to constructively challenge and contribute in a boardroom environment.
- A willingness to devote the time and energy required to fulfil the role.
- Respect for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Diversity and Inclusion

Arthritis Australia believes better decisions are made when a range of experiences, perspectives and backgrounds are represented around the board table. We strongly encourage applications from:

- People living with arthritis or musculoskeletal conditions.
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- People with disability.

- Individuals from regional and rural communities.
- Emerging leaders seeking to contribute to the not-for-profit and health sectors.

Why Join Us?

As a Director of Arthritis Australia, you will:

- Help influence national health policy and advocacy.
- Support research and innovation that improves lives.
- Contribute to a respected and purpose-driven national organisation.
- Work alongside experienced leaders committed to creating positive change.
- Leave a lasting legacy for millions of Australians living with arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions.

How to Apply

To express your interest, please submit:

- A cover letter outlining your interest and relevant experience, and how your skills, experience and lived experience would strengthen the Board and contribute to Arthritis Australia's strategic priorities
- A current curriculum vitae.
- Details of any current or previous board appointments.

To request a confidential discussion about the role with the Chair or Company Secretary, please contact our Office Manager on (02) 9518 4441.

Applications are to be submitted by email to admin@arthritisaustralia.org.au and close at 4.00pm AEST on October 5, 2026.

Following the application closing date, a candidate assessment and selection process will be undertaken during September and October, with the process expected to be finalised by the end of October 2026. Subject to the completion of all appointment requirements, the successful applicant(s) will be formally appointed and take office at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) to be held on 20 November 2026.

Join us in creating a future where every Australian living with arthritis is seen, heard, supported and empowered.

Appendix
National Strategic Action Plan

