



NOT-FOR PROFIT CHARTER AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Bowls Gr8 for Brains – Lawn Bowling for good mental health

ACN 642 619 449

Corporate Governance

Bowls Gr8 for Brains was founded as an organisation to provide Mental Health support through lawn bowling programmes. Bowls Gr8 for brains is dedicated to the sharing of information and the implementation of the Lawn bowling concept as a means of combatting social isolation, combatting and preventing suicide and improving people's Mental health.

There is now wide medical evidence supporting the following as being pathways to recovery:

- Physical Exercise,
- Re-integration into the social environment,
- Targeted and directed activity that stimulates brain function, and
- Engaging in activities that divert the brain's attention away from trauma and mental health issues and brings people into the moment.

In conducting our affairs and services to support our people and their families who may live with Mental health issues, as well as to strengthen communities across Australia we are guided by:

Our Vision – Building Community, better physical and mental health solutions

Our Mission – Empower people through bowls, teaching new skills, creating new communities, build networks and help people in distress

Our Objectives - To combat the rising suicide rates amongst our people, by promoting the lawn bowling community as a supportive solution, and to research the value of this type of activity, with medical and other professionals as a potential tool to recovery,

Bowls Gr8 for Brains is a Community Based, and Peer supported mental health project. Our aim is to introduce people living mental health challenges to an activity that is community based, inexpensive and accessible, one that includes many elements that are proven to be pathways to good mental health. The creation of a new type of support group one that is fun and one that brings the benefits of:

- Physical Exercise,
- Reintegration into the social environment,
- Targeted and directed activity that stimulates brain function, and
- Engaging in activities that divert the brain's attention away from distressing thoughts and brings people into the moment.

Our goals:

- To promote Lawn Bowls
- To raise awareness of the challenges people endure living with conditions such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) depression and anxiety
- To create a network of free Support groups, one that brings peer To facilitate, teach and promote lawn bowls as good therapy in living with mental health conditions in a safe and supported environment
- Establish lawn bowling, in the broader community as having therapeutic benefits in maintaining good mental health
- Contribute to campaigns that tackle rising suicide rates,
- Research the value of this type of activity, with medical and other like-minded professionals as a potential tool in the treatment of mental health conditions.

We will do this by:

- Promoting and delivering lawn bowling programmes to interested Bowling Clubs across Australia,
- Linking support networks, already in existence, for Defence and Emergency responders with Lawn Bowling networks,
- Building infrastructure and taking the project on the road, and,
- Researching and providing advice as to the therapeutic benefits of lawn bowling.

Our Pillars

Creating Identity – Develop branding and review through feedback from clients and stakeholders, develop social media and communications planning,

Governance – Create and register the constitution to meet legislative requirements, develop and implement committee skills and competence requirements, develop policies and procedures, deliver a safe environment.

Develop Networks – Establish relationships with key support providers and with interested bowling clubs and organisations, identify new opportunities and respond, identify partners to help deliver the plan

Bowling – purchase, acquire and maintain resources, allocate and spend time on the green with clients (roadshow) and promote and engage the benefits of bowling, identify opportunity and risks and respond accordingly. Develop and implement a fit-for purpose, yet flexible, lawn bowling programme, that is supported by professionals and is adaptable to change.

Communications – build and maintain a communications system that is transparent, available to all clients and stakeholders and fit for purpose, utilise Social Media

Financial – Conduct fundraising and grant application activities for financial viability,

Giving and supporting - We give back to our members, to share knowledge and experience, and act to financially support our participants and partner bowling clubs

OUR CORE VALUES

Respectful – We are respectful of our clients, our stakeholders, their families and their guests and we are respectful of each other’s needs, roles, and responsibilities.

Responsive – We listen and respond to any concerns and suggestions, we regularly communicate with our clients and stakeholders

Progressive – We endeavour to meet our clients and stakeholder’s expectations; we embrace change to ensure the adoption of contemporary governance practices in the management and ongoing development of our organisation.

Supportive – We support the needs of our clients and our stakeholders; we endeavour to provide the support our participants need during their experiences in lawn bowling.

Safe – We endeavour to provide a safe and secure environment for our clients and stakeholders,

Friendly – We will provide a fun and supported social experience

Family – We believe in family, we consider our stakeholders and clients to be family, and, promote the value of family and peer support.

Bowls Gr8 for Brains initial Governance Statement – April 2022

Bowls Gr8 for Brains is committed to proper and effective corporate governance. We constantly seek to maximise efficiency and effectiveness of our operations, while continuing to place those who we serve, our participants and our partner clubs, at the centre of everything we do.

Bowls Gr8 for Brains is making application for registration to be regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and applies the ACNC Governance Standards.

The Bowls Gr8 for Brains Board has overall responsibility for the financial performance of the organisation and the achievement of its founding purpose. The Bowls Gr8 for Brains Board recognises its role in overseeing the determination and implementation of policies and processes that reflect good corporate governance aligned with the ACNC Governance Standards, our contractual commitments and stakeholder expectations that together with our Values inform and guide the organisation.

Governance Standard 1—Purpose and not-for-profit nature of a registered entity

Bowls Gr8 for Brains was established in 2020 and plans to register as a Company Limited by Guarantee in. Bowls Gr8 for Brains intends to register with the ACNC as a charity for the purpose of Health and Wellbeing Promotion.

Bowls Gr8 for Brains is established for the purpose of promoting the prevention or control of mental health problems in human beings by promoting, advancing and supporting an effective and sustainable Lawn Bowling Programme, and representing the interests of our participants,

Bowls Gr8 for Brains is currently receiving funds through sponsorship and donations from volunteers, Partner clubs have received funding through Community and Health Grants, to establish the programme. Bowls Gr8 for Brains will be seeking funding from the Federal Government Department of Health and Sport.

Governance Standard 2—Accountability to members

Bowls Gr8 for Brains has members and other stakeholders. The Board is accountable to the members for the conduct of our affairs, and the pursuit of our founding purpose and objectives as set out in our Constitution and Strategic Plan.

Each year members of Bowls Gr8 Brains will receive notice of the Annual General Meeting where the full financial report is presented to members together with an Annual Report.

Outside of the Annual General Meeting members can raise matters of concern directly with the Chairperson or any member of the Board.

Our financial statements will be lodged with and made publicly available at the ACNC and our Annual Report shall be available on our website.

Governance Standard 3—Compliance with Australian laws

Bowls Gr8 for Brains recognises that as a registered entity under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) the organisation must comply with Australian laws. As a not-for-profit company Limited by Guarantee BOWLS GR8 FOR BRAINS will be registered under the Corporations Act 2001 which continues to apply, but in a form modified by the ACNC Act. In accordance with the ACNC Act, the ACNC is the lead regulator and the ACNC Act is the main law applicable to us in relation to corporate governance. Bowls Gr8 for Brains intends to hold tax endorsements and concessions and are therefore also subject to the Income Tax Assessment Act administered by the Australian Taxation Office.

All Bowls Gr8 for Brains Directors have been briefed about their intended duties as ‘responsible entities’ under the ACNC Act. The Board strives to lead by example when it comes to acting ethically and responsibly and specifically charges management with the responsibility for creating a culture which promotes ethical and responsible behaviour.

Bowls Gr8 for Brains has developed and commits to a Code of Conduct detailed in the constitution.

All Board members and members are expected to comply with relevant laws and codes of conduct of relevant professional bodies and to act with integrity, compassion and respect at all times when dealing with colleagues, clients and others involved in our organisation.

Bowls Gr8 for Brains is currently developing Policies to demonstrate compliance, these Policies include and not limited to: Occupational Health and Safety, Risk and Assurance, Complaints and discipline management.

Through these policies we seek to build a good reputation designing a culture in which honesty, integrity and business ethics are a part of everyday behaviour.

Governance Standard 4—Suitability of responsible entities

Our Board has the balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity to enable the group collectively to exercise their judgment to discharge their duties and responsibilities effectively. Bowls Gr8 for Brains acknowledges that our Directors are ‘responsible entities’ under the ACNC Act and that they must not be persons disqualified from managing a corporation or disqualified by the ACNC from being a responsible entity.

Our Board comprises of six (6) elected Directors. Our Charter requires the Board to assess whether each Director is sufficiently independent. Each Director supplies the Chairperson with all the necessary, requested information that may be relevant to this assessment.

The Board intends to review its own performance annually and intends to seek continuous improvement.

Governance Standard 5—Duties of responsible entities

Foundations for management and oversight - The role of the Board is to support a governance framework which ensures we are operating legally, ethically and responsibly.

Responsibilities include

- Providing strategic guidance in programme development
- Providing oversight to external programme activities – Risk Management, evaluation and performance reporting.
- Establishing the functions reserved to the Board.
- Monitoring financial results and the effectiveness of the risk-management system and overseeing policies governing Bowls Gr8 for Brains operations and sustainability as well as ethics and transparency.
- Self-evaluating the Board’s effectiveness and aspiring to excellence in corporate governance.

Our Board meets at least six times during the year to:

- Monitor progress in achieving the Strategic Plan and performance,
- keep detailed financial and other reports to verify our financial performance, viability, solvency and long and short-term sustainability.
- Assign responsibility to Board Members to oversee parts of Bowls Gr8 for Brains operations and administration in areas such as membership, finance, audit, risk, insurances, service evaluation and review,
- Advocate for Bowls Gr8 for Brains and peoples’ Health whenever and wherever appropriate.

Safeguarding integrity in financial reporting – Bowls Gr8 for Brains is developing Policy to ensure quality financial practises and performance in financial reporting to the board and to Partner clubs. This includes an annual agenda item for the selection and appointment of an external Auditor and.

Recognising and managing risk

Bowls Gr8 for Brains is committed to an organisational culture that enables us to achieve our strategic objectives through appropriate management of risk. Bowls Gr8 for Brains is developing Policy that demonstrate our commitment to Managing Risk.

The Board is responsible for

- Monitoring the effectiveness risk management processes and systems, including compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Satisfying itself through appropriate reporting and oversight that appropriate internal and external control mechanisms are in place and are being implemented
- preparing financial statements and monitoring financial performance
- Providing oversight and monitoring of workplace health and safety issues

The recognition and management of risk is undertaken under the Bows Gr8 for Brains Risk Management Plan and Risk Management policy. Bows Gr8 for Brains understands there will always be risk associated with the provision of our services and that Risk Management Responses are adjusted accordingly.