

About us

The Australian Council for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Victorian Branch (ACHPER Victoria) has a vision for Active and Healthy Victorians and we achieve this by:

- Building the capacity of teachers to deliver high quality Health and Physical Education (HPE) in Victorian schools.
- Supporting schools to develop and implement whole of school approaches to physical activity, active recreation, active classrooms.
- Supporting schools and community organisations in the delivery of quality school sport.
- Acknowledging and supporting teacher wellbeing as fundamental to quality teaching and learning experiences.

We have approximately 700 financial members and connect with 10,000 teachers across 2,000 schools in Victoria. Our work has become ever more valuable as research increasingly indicates the importance of high quality HPE as a factor in life long activity and healthy choices.

Active Schools Expert Support Service

In 2021 ACHPER Victoria was funded by the Department of Education and Training (DET), Victoria to deliver the new Active Schools Expert Support Service (ESS). The Active Schools Framework outlines six key priority areas of an Active School, recognising there is no single solution to shifting inactivity; it takes a multifaceted and systemic effort. The six key priority areas of an Active School are Quality Physical Education, Quality School Sport, Active Classrooms, Active Travel and Active Recreation. The sixth priority is a supportive school environment that provides space and encourages students to be active. The Active Schools initiative aims to ensure students have the skills, confidence and motivation to be active for life, building on existing programs and funding to boost support and resources to get schools and students moving. This includes the ACHPER Victoria led Expert Support Service which will assist schools to ensure students have the skills, confidence and motivation to be active for life. It's all about getting more kids, more active, more often.

Building Professional Capacity

Annually more than 2,000 Victorian teachers invested in building their professional capacity to deliver high quality HPE by engaging with ACHPER Victoria through evidence based, meaning, quality support such as workshops, conferences, resources and online learning.

In a single year, these teachers collectively influence more than 400,000 children. The ongoing impact of this is more Victorian children with increased competence, confidence and knowledge to live an active and healthy life.

Future focus areas for ACHPER Victoria include:

- Increased community connection with the provision of a space where teachers can connect and share with each other.
- Investment in research which leads to strong evidence supported advocacy and improved services.
- A marketplace where teachers and other professionals working in the space of HPE, physical active, active recreation, outdoor education and wellbeing can come to source quality products and services from sector providers.
- Membership offerings for schools as well as individuals which provides tangible benefits and expert support to building capacity in teachers and schools to provide quality HPE and whole of school health, physical activity and wellbeing programs with positive impact on staff and students.

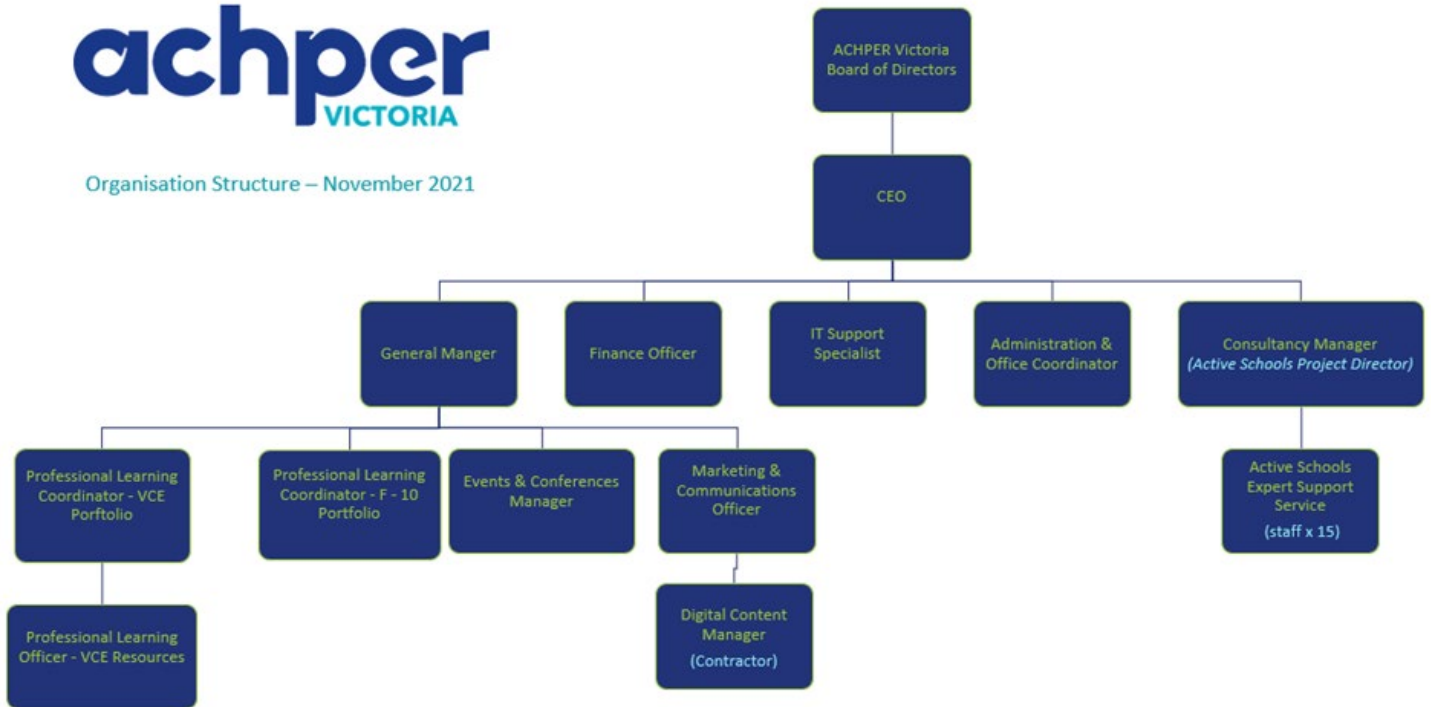
What is a Board of Directors?

The Board of ACHPER Victoria is the group of people who have the responsibility to govern the association. It is a legal requirement for all not-for-profit organisations to be governed by a Board of Directors. The individuals who serve on the Board are known as Directors.

The purpose of the Board is to provide ACHPER Victoria with strategic direction, sector insight and overall risk management for strong and sustainable growth. The Board acts proactively to drive the work of the organisation to meet current and future demands of our members and the broader community. The Board also has ultimate responsibility for the finances of the organisation and holds legal responsibility for its ventures and actions. The Board's key contact with the organisation is through the Chief Executive Officer.

ACHPER Victoria supports strong collaboration between staff and Directors. The Board is responsible for appointing and managing the Chief Executive Officer.

ACHPER Victoria has operational staff who implement the strategic plan, as determined by the board. The current organisational structure is on page 2.



Who can be a Director?

The Board has capacity for nine (9) individuals. Six of these positions, Ordinary Director positions, are voted by the members of ACHPER Victoria and three (3) positions are available for the Board to co-opt individuals with specific skills.

The Director positions are held by individuals, not organisations. Anyone who is a member of ACHPER, and feels they have something to contribute, can nominate for a Board position.

It is important the Board remains representative of the members and has the skills and experience required to perform its governing and strategic duties.

The Board has identified the following skills and experience as being important for our organisation:

- Practicing HPE and generalist teachers (primary, secondary and VCE)
- Tertiary educators and researchers
- School leadership / Department leadership
- Senior leadership in sport, health and recreation organisations (govt or non-govt)
- Commercial experience (ie strong business and financial acumen)

What does a Director do?

The ACHPER Victoria Board are a group of strategic thinkers. It is the Board's role to ensure the organisation remains relevant and sustainable. To do this, the Board must consider the needs of the HPE profession now and in the future and ensure ACHPER Victoria has a strategic plan which will continue to position the organisation as the peak professional association for HPE in Victoria.

Directors are key advocates for the HPE profession and for ACHPER Victoria. From time to time Directors may be asked to represent ACHPER Victoria at key stakeholder events such as our annual conference, Annual General Meeting and other awards ceremonies.

What are the legal obligations?

The Board is responsible for ensuring the organisation meets all legal and financial requirements and remains accountable to its members and other stakeholders, including funding bodies such as the state government. More particularly, the Board needs to make sure the organisation acts per its stated mission.

When making decisions Directors must exercise their powers and discharge their duties with care and diligence. Importantly, Directors must make known any potential conflict of interest.

All Staff and volunteers (including Directors) are covered by liability insurance and ACHPER Victoria will assist in Governance training to ensure you feel confident and supported in your role on the Board.

What are the time commitments?

When you are voted by the members onto the Board you have a term limit of 2 years. You can renominate for your position every 2 years but you cannot exceed more than 8 years in total.

The Board meets approximately 9 times per year. We have Board meetings every 6 – 8 weeks plus our Annual General Meeting in May and our strategic planning day in September. Board meetings are held during the week in the evening and attendance can be virtual or in person.

Prior to each Board meeting, you will be issued with Board papers and an agenda. Generally, these documents take approximately 2 hours to read. It is important (and expected) you read the Board papers prior to the meeting so you can be an informed participant in discussions and decision making.

It is expected Directors attend all Board meetings, however we do understand you have other commitments and obligations which will take priority from time to time. We hope you take some holidays, and in the unfortunate event of you being ill, we always expect you to put your own health first.

What's in it for you?

Becoming an ACHPER Victoria Director is a brilliant way to contribute to your professional association and make a difference to the professional growth of others and to advocate for the importance of Health and Physical education as a valuable, unique and highly necessary learning area.

Not only will you gain satisfaction by being at the forefront of your profession and sector, you will gain valuable experience beyond your current professional role and have opportunities to meet influential people from within the Board, staff and broader industry.

Being an ACHPER Victoria Director will broaden your perspective of the education, health, sport and recreation sectors and benefit you in your current and future professional roles.

Who are we looking for?

ACHPER Victoria thrives on big picture thinkers who are passionate about our vision (Active and Healthy, Victorians) and who connect with our mission (Enhancing, Supporting and Advocating for highest quality health and physical education in Victoria through effective engagement with teachers, schools and communities).

The Board should be representative of our members and our broader Health and Physical Education community therefore we are keen for individuals with a range of skills and experience from areas such as:

- Practicing teachers (primary, secondary, VCE, tertiary)
- School leaders
- Academics and researchers
- Sport, recreation and health organisation
- Commercial/entrepreneurial
- Financial skills
- Marketing and communications
- Governance and organisational leadership
- Human Resources and Change Management
- Legal
- Policy development and Advocacy
- Government relations

Nominating for the board

Nominations open annually prior to the AGM.

Please feel free to contact the CEO, Hilary Shelton for a discussion at any time on hilary.shelton@achper.vic.edu.au or 03 9274 8907