

Clinical Senate of Western Australia

Clinical Senator roles and responsibilities

Key Responsibilities:

Members of the Clinical Senate (Clinical Senators) are participants in attending debates and promoting the values of the WA health system. Clinical Senators are required to bring their reflections of and contributions to decision making in the design and delivery of quality health services in WA. Contributions should include system level strategic advice as well as clinical best practice such as contemporary models of care.

Clinical Senators are responsible for their contribution to robust deliberations in Clinical Senate debates to identify opportunities to drive improvements in health care quality and health outcomes. Clinical Senators should approach these deliberations in an impartial manner and should not reflect any organisational, sectional or vested interests. Clinical Senators are considered 'members' for the term of their appointment after which time they are encouraged to continue their association as alumni.

Brief Summary of Duties:

Clinical Senators are expected to attend all Clinical Senate debates held each year. Whenever a Clinical Senator is unable to participate, they must nominate an appropriate proxy, to be approved by the Chair. Where a proxy is nominated, it is the member's responsibility to fully brief the proxy, to ensure the nominated proxy is able to participate in the discussion and represent the member at the Clinical Senate debate. It should be noted that an absence from more than one Clinical Senate debate a year without providing a proxy could terminate your role as a Clinical Senator.

If a Clinical Senator perceived that a colleague had more knowledge or passion on an upcoming Clinical Senate debate issue, they may recommend this person's attendance to the Chair, via the Clinical Senate Secretariat, for consideration.

Clinical Senators must familiarise themselves with the issues to be covered for each Clinical Senate debate, participate constructively in all Clinical Senate debates and work together in providing pragmatic advice.

Clinical Senators have a responsibility to disseminate information across their clinical forums regarding Clinical Senate debate outcomes in a manner which does not disclose confidential information. Clinical Senators are responsible for briefing their respective Health Service Chief Executive on Clinical Senate activities and debate outcomes as appropriate.

Desirable Criteria:

1. Emerging or experienced health professional involved in regular clinical practice and held in high regard by their colleagues.
e.g.
 - Recognised as a leader by their peers.
 - Seeks opportunities to improve their own contribution and encourages and empowers others.
2. Demonstrated ability to influence the improvement of quality of care or health outcomes.
e.g.
 - Understands the strategic context for health care.
 - Actively seeks and values input from a broad range of stakeholders.
3. Demonstrated experience in employing innovative approaches and/or change management to reduce unwarranted clinical variation and preventable harm.
e.g.
 - Ability to develop new ideas or actively promote other's ideas.
 - Strong interpersonal skills.
4. Awareness of evidence based practice and how this can be promulgated to drive system wide change.
e.g.
 - Proactively keeps up to date with best practice and research in their discipline.
 - Ability to translate complex ideas into tangible improvements

Confidentiality and Behaviour:

- Clinical Senators will operate to Chatham House Rules in debates - a principle according to which information disclosed during a Clinical Senate debate may be reported by those present, but the source of that information may not be explicitly or implicitly identified.
- Clinical Senators should not publically disclose any information that is identified as confidential.
- All information that is to be made publicly available relating to Clinical Senate matters must be approved by the Chair.
- Clinical Senators should disclose any real or perceived conflicts of interest before each Clinical Senate debate.
- All Clinical Senators must abide by the WA health system Code of Conduct.