



## Aboriginal Participation on Boards Register

*The Department of Planning and Community Development would like to thank and acknowledge the Wathaurung people for allowing the use of the word Wayaperri (meaning 'to meet') for the name of this initiative.*

### Help Sheet 1

#### How does Wayaperri work and why should you be on it?

Joining a Board can lead to enormous personal benefits and rewards, allowing you to help make a difference to your community while gaining new knowledge and skills and expanding your networks.

#### But how do you get onto a Board?

A good first step to joining a Board is to read the Help Sheets, which will help you to get clear in your mind what Board service entails, what you are likely to get out of it and what you may have to offer a Board.

The next step is to join **Wayaperri - The Aboriginal Participation on Boards Register**

#### What is Wayaperri - The Aboriginal Participation on Boards Register?

Wayaperri - The Aboriginal Participation on Boards Register is a database containing the details of Aboriginal Victorians who are interested in nominating for government, not-for-profit and community sector Boards.

It forms part of a broad government strategy aimed at increasing the representation of Aboriginal people on Boards, providing:

- an avenue through which Aboriginal people can register their interest in and availability to take up Board appointments, and
- a place where Government Ministers, senior Government officials and approved not-for-profit organisations and community groups can get access to a professional and confidential service that will help them find the right person for a vacant Board position.

#### How does Register work?

The Register works by collecting the names, contact details, resumes and areas of interest of Aboriginal people from Victoria who are keen in and available to take up Board positions.

Those people who have provided their details to the Register also give permission for their resume to be reproduced and released to Government agencies, not-for-profit organisations and community groups seeking new Board or Committee members

When a Board vacancy arises, staff from Aboriginal Affairs Victoria scan through the Register to check for appropriate candidates. If a suitable candidate is identified, they are asked for their permission before their details are passed on to the recruiting Board.

It is important to note that registering for the database does not fast-track your nomination or guarantee you will be offered a Board position - it is simply a method of streamlining the nomination process. Selection procedures, including assessment of the particular skills, experiences, interests and suitability of each candidate will take place in accordance with each individual Board's normal processes.



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## The Email Alert System

The Register also includes an optional Email Alert System, which provides information via email on current non-executive Board vacancies. Details usually include:

- The agency or body that is seeking Board member/s
- The functions and powers of the agency or body
- How many positions are vacant
- Any particular qualifications/experience that is required by nominees
- Contact details for further information
- Application closing date

The alert system provides a useful way for people to keep up-to-date with what sort of vacancies exist on Government Boards and Committees, possibly opening up ideas for Board service that may not previously have been considered.

## When will I be contacted?

You will receive a newsletter every month. If you have signed up for the Email Alert System, you will also receive emails about Board vacancies as they crop up. In addition, every year you will be asked to update your details.

In the event that you are "matched" with a particular Board vacancy, you will be contacted to gauge your interest and seek your permission to forward your details to the particular Board.

## Is the information I provide confidential?

Candidates' information is kept under *Information Privacy Act 2000* provisions. It is released to Government Ministers, agencies or stakeholder organisations only after permission has been obtained from each candidate. You will be asked for this permission when you join the Register.

## What types of vacancies are promoted by the Register?

Government and not-for-profit Boards and Committees cover a vast range of interest areas, including for example major event coordination, environmental and heritage issues, health and recreational pastimes. Some Boards are small and low-profile, while others have enormous responsibilities and operate within the public gaze. Government and not-for-profit Boards also have varying functions and powers, with some fulfilling an organisational or facility management role, and others providing advice to Government on particular issues or acting as a tribunal or registration body.

The Register promotes a wide variety of non-executive Board member vacancies. (*Non-executive* members are those who are independent of and have no other paid association with the organisation the Board is governing). Some of the positions are paid, some are voluntary.

## How do I register?

Registration is open to any Aboriginal people from Victoria and involves a free, simple, one-step process. Simply visit the following website and click on Wayaperri.  
<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous>

You can also forward your details via email to [wayaperri@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:wayaperri@dpcd.vic.gov.au) remembering to include:

- Your name;
- Your current address;
- Contact telephone number/s;
- Your email address;
- An up-to-date resume, including any areas of interest; and
- Whether or not you would like to be included in the Email Alert System.

If you do not have access to email you can send your details (including all of the above information) to Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, GPO Box 2392 Melbourne, Victoria 3001 or by fax to (03) 9208 3294.

## How do I get off the Register?

You can remove your name from the Register at any time by emailing [wayaperri@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:wayaperri@dpcd.vic.gov.au) and asking that you be taken off the list. In addition, those people who do not respond to the annual request for updated information will be automatically removed from the Register to ensure that only relevant and up-to-date information is kept.

For more help sheets visit the following website and follow the links to Wayaperri:  
<http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/indigenous/>

Queries should be directed to [wayaperri@dpcd.vic.gov.au](mailto:wayaperri@dpcd.vic.gov.au)