

Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia



Committee Terms of Reference

The Early Career Optometrists Victoria (ECOV) and Early Career Optometrists South Australia (ECOSA) Committees combined on 1 July 2019 to become Early Career Optometrists Victoria South Australia (ECOV/SA).

Early career optometrists are the future leaders of the optometry profession. In Victoria and South Australia they face unique challenges in establishing their careers within the profession. As the only State Division in Australia with three optometry schools, there will be increased graduate numbers over the coming years. Early career optometrists have specific learning and development requirements that may not necessarily be met through existing CPD offerings. In addition, there is a risk of professional isolation due to the dispersed nature of the workforce.

Professional development and networking opportunities that are targeted to the unique needs of early career optometrists are essential in fostering and growing a high performing profession, an ongoing commitment to optometry, and individual career satisfaction.

Purpose

The purpose of the committee is to enable early career optometrists, with the assistance of Optometry Victoria South Australia (OV/SA), to grow professionally, through the provision of continuing professional development and networking opportunities specifically targeted to the needs of early career optometrists.

Early career optometrists are defined as students and registered optometrists who are up to ten years from graduation.

OV/SA is seeking support of the committee for the following roles and responsibilities, which include but are not limited to:

- providing advice to OV/SA on the current needs of early career optometrists;
- planning and delivery of events for early career optometrists;
- contributing to the development and implementation of a strategy to engage students 'early' in their course;
- contributing to the development and delivery of the annual Student Meet-Up and Career Expos;
- development and delivery of a strategy to retain early career optometrists as members of OV/SA, and
- advocating to early career optometrists the advantages and benefits of OV/SA membership.

Committee membership

OV/SA members will be invited to nominate to join the committee from time to time, as required. Committee members are selected by the ECOV/SA committee and OV/SA's CEO. Members are expected to foster and maintain strong networks amongst early career optometrists, to inform their views and opinions on the committee.

Diversity of membership is important, and the committee should include members who represent a range of sub-groups across all early career optometrists.

Term of the committee

ECOV/SA is a committee of OV/SA. The role and purpose of the committee, and its achievements, are reviewed periodically in line with the OV/SA Strategic Plan and Budget.

OV/SA early career members are invited to nominate for the committee, from time to time as vacancies arise. Nominations are reviewed by the committee and the OV/SA Secretariat. Committee members vote to determine the successful applicant.

Committee members are appointed for a period of two years, but shall be eligible to be reappointed for a further two years, should they wish to continue on the committee. Committee members can remain on the committee for a further twelve months to allow for recruitment of new members should this be required, and to provide continuity. Committee members should step down after five years.

Committee members must resign from the committee if they:

- are no longer a financial member of OV/SA;
- become an employee of OV/SA, or
- for any reason as determined by OV/SA's Chief Executive Officer.

Meetings

Meetings will be held bi-monthly, or as required, either face-to-face or by teleconference. Individual communication with members may be required between meetings. Meetings are held during business hours.

Declaration of interest

Committee members must declare any conflicts of interest at the beginning of each committee meeting. The declaration of interests will be recorded in the meeting minutes.

Resourcing

OV/SA will contribute financial resourcing to support CPD and networking events within the parameters of the OV/SA budget. OV/SA will provide secretariat support to the committee. OV/SA will provide meeting and seminar space in the OV/SA building and the use of a desk and computer one day per week if required. OV/SA will also provide access to OV/SA infrastructure such as financial systems for managing income and expenditure and risk management, and facilities for events at no cost.

The committee may seek additional financial resourcing from external groups such as optometry equipment suppliers, in line with OV/SA's policy on accepting external sponsorship.

Management of funds

OV/SA will receive and manage any financial contributions received through external sponsorship on behalf of the committee. The funds will be used solely and exclusively for early career optometrist events and initiatives as determined by the committee.

OV/SA will ensure that the financial infrastructure is in place to ensure that the holding and disbursement of funds complies with Australian laws and taxation requirements.

Cessation of the committee

In the event that the committee ceases, any funds held on behalf of the committee will be used for early career optometrist events and initiatives only.

Amendment

The Terms of Reference may be amended, varied or modified in writing after consultation and agreement by committee members.

Evaluation and reporting

The outcomes of meetings of this committee will be presented to the Board in a report authored by the secretariat support person, and signed off by the committee chair. Where formal agendas are set the reporting methodology will mirror the agenda sequence. It will not generally be a requirement for the Board to view full minutes of the meeting.

Last updated April 2021