

SWOP Governance Committee - what you need to know before you join!

Each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) SWOP's membership elect a governance committee. The elected committee is delegated the responsibility to make governance decisions for the organisation and is accountable to the membership.

The elected Committee is made up of the following positions:

President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 3 General Members

The Roles:

All SWOP Executive Committee members are responsible for the governance of the organisation. This includes contributing to: ● Strategic Planning ● Strategic steering ● Financial oversight ● Risk Management ● Delegations ● Organisational Policies & Procedures ● Managing conflicts of interest ● Complaint resolution ● Managing external relationships ● Supervision of CEO ● Advocacy & representation ● Legal & contractual compliance ● Accountability to members.

The committee positions carry legal responsibilities that apply to all charities in Australia. See recommended readings link below for the Duties of Responsible Persons.

Requirements for SWOP Committee members:

- Member of SWOP Inc which requires you to be a current sex worker in New South Wales or to have previously been a sex worker in New South Wales
- That the person is NOT currently the owner or operator of a Sex Industry Business employing, contracting or otherwise deriving benefit from the work of one or more sex workers additional to, if applicable, the owner or operator of the Sex Industry Business
- Sound knowledge of sex worker issues in New South Wales
- Willingness to learn SWOP policies
- Ability to undertake new and challenging work to strengthen SWOP
- Initiative to research and locate information necessary to support and progress decisions
- Interest in sex worker rights and an understanding of issues affecting NSW sex workers
- Access to internet, emails and enjoy working in a team using good communication skills

Time commitment

We estimate that all committee members will need to allocate 5 hours a week to the role and will require some reading and preparation for meetings and achieving goals. There is also a day long orientation session soon after the AGM which will be held in person or online. The Committee meets for a 1.5 - 2 hour meeting each month. On occasion members are required to attend urgent meetings.

In addition, the committee members divide tasks to be researched and completed during the month. Decisions throughout the month are made by email and require regular checking of emails and input into decisions. Each role also has some tasks unique to that role that require work throughout the month.

Confidentiality Agreement

All committee members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement that means they are not able to share the information or workings of the committee outside of the group.

Recommended readings:

The SWOP website includes a wide range of information about SWOP and includes our constitution and past strategic plans.

SWOP links:

SWOP website: <https://swop.org.au/>

Strategic Plan: <https://swop.org.au/association-documents/strategic-plan>

Constitution: [Constitution - Constitution - SWOP Sex Workers Outreach Project](#)

Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC):

[Duties of Responsible Persons | Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission \(acnc.gov.au\)](#)