



Australian Midwifery and Maternity Alliance (AMMA)

Terms of reference

Purpose

AMMA works strategically to enable evidence informed policy and practice resulting in high quality, maternity services.

Guiding Principles

- Woman centred care respects and values women's autonomy and right to self-determination.
- Midwifery is a distinct profession from nursing and must be led by midwives educated to work to their full scope of practice.
- Pregnancy and birth are primarily normal psycho-social, physiological processes.
- Midwives work autonomously as health professionals with a defined scope of practice (1) and collaborate when/if required to achieve the best outcomes for women and their babies.
- Best outcomes for childbearing women and their babies are achieved through continuity of midwifery carer provided by midwives educated, regulated, and working in an enabling environment (2)

AMMA

- Provides expertise in analysis, research and consultation related to any aspect of midwifery and maternal and newborn services and care across four themes: policy, regulation, legislation, and funding.
- Influences policy makers, regulators, legislators, funders, maternity service providers, researchers, and educators to drive the transformation of maternity services.
- Lobbies for separate midwifery legislation and professional midwifery leadership across all Australian jurisdictions.
- Challenges regulation, funding, policy, and practice that precludes values informed, evidence based maternal and newborn services.
- Highlights deficiencies and holds to account policy makers and leaders of health services by working strategically to show inequities, and inefficiencies in care.
- Supports the development of early and mid-career leaders and consumer advocates.
- Increases the visibility of midwifery.

Membership

AMMA is an alliance of like-minded individuals and organisations who agree with the principles, and work collectively to achieve the stated purpose of the Alliance. AMMA is independent of and does not represent the professional and consumer organisations that are affiliated with the Alliance.

Type of membership:

Core members

- Core members are individuals committed to the principles and purpose of AMMA and who commit to playing an active role in progressing the work of AMMA.
- Core members may be active in other organisations but do not represent these organisations in their role in AMMA.
- Potential core members must be nominated by a current AMMA core member and invited to join.
- Core members have voting rights and contribute to the quorum.

Core member commitments

- Contribute ideas and suggestions.
- Attend at least 50% of scheduled AMMA meetings.
- Actively contribute to the work of the AMMA
- Champion the work of AMMA.
- Foster AMMA collaboration by open, honest, and respectful discussions and sharing relevant communications and information as appropriate with the AMMA members.

Affiliate members

- Affiliate members are organisations committed to the principles and purpose of AMMA and who commit to supporting the work of AMMA.
- Organisations will be represented on AMMA by up to two individuals (or their substitutes)
- Organisations may be invited or request to affiliate with AMMA
- Affiliate members do not have voting rights and do not contribute to the quorum.

Affiliate member Commitments

- Represent their respective organisation.
- Contribute ideas and suggestions.
- Actively contribute to the work of the AMMA where relevant.
- Champion the work of AMMA.
- Foster AMMA collaboration by open, honest, and respectful discussions and sharing relevant communications and information as appropriate with the AMMA members.

AMMA may also seek to collaborate with people or organisations who are not members of AMMA on specific projects.

AMMA member's activities and engagement will be reviewed annually by the voting AMMA members. AMMA members who do not meet the requirements may be asked to step down.

AMMA members may resign membership of AMMA at any time. Organisation members are asked to find a suitable replacement prior to stepping down unless the organisation is resigning from AMMA.

Process for admitting new members:

1. Individual or organisation nominated by a current core member
2. Member speaks to nomination at next AMMA meeting where objections are raised and discussed
3. Voting occurs out of session (via email to chair) – one vote organisation, one vote per individual – by nominated closing date
4. Votes tabulated and shared out of session
5. Positive result – Chair contacts nominee via email with invitation and ToR
6. ToRs are accepted and signed by nominee, returned to Chair
7. Result is ratified at the next AMMA committee meeting.

Voting

1. Each member will have one vote.
2. Quorum for voting of 50% + 1.

Chair

The AMMA will be chaired by a core member of the AMMA as appointed by an election process annually. The Chair will have Secretariat Support from the AMMA membership. The term of the Chair is 12 months and members may serve no more than two terms as Chair. A co-chair position will be available to support development of early/mid-career leaders and consumer advocates.

The Chair will be responsible for:

- Setting the agenda for meetings.
- Chairing meetings.
- Leading discussion and providing all consortium members with opportunity to contribute.
- Facilitating the timely completion of the AMMAs' work.
- Casting a deciding vote in a tied vote of AMMA.
- Approving meeting minutes and actions.
- Arranging the meeting technologies (e.g., teleconference, video conference or meeting rooms).

Frequency of Meetings

The schedule for meetings will be the responsibility of the Chair, in consultation with the AMMA members. AMMA should meet formally at least four times per year in addition to addressing matters arising at any time. Ideally meetings will be held within business hours.

During the establishment phase meetings will be monthly.

Secretariat Support

Secretariat support will be shared amongst the AMMA members with members volunteering to undertake the role for one year. Secretariat support will be responsible for assisting the Chair by recording draft minutes of meetings and providing to the Chair for distribution.

References

1. DEFINITION OF THE MIDWIFE A midwife is a person who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is based on the ICM Essential Competencies for Midwifery Practice and the framework of the ICM Global Standards for Midwifery Education and is recognized in the country where it is located; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title 'midwife'; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery. *International Confederation of Midwives Webpage 2021*
2. [www.thelancet.com/lancetgh](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30397-1) Published online December 1, 2020,
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30397-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30397-1)