

## FOCIS Membership 2020/2021

In accordance with the FOCIS Inc. Constitution a person applying or invited to be a member of the Association must be proposed by one member of the Association (the proposer) and seconded by another member (the seconder).

### Background

FOCIS, established in 1992, is a not-for-profit charity representing school canteens across Australia. We believe school canteens are an integral part of the learning environment and play an important role in health promotion.

As a peak body working with State and Territory Canteen Associations and Networks, FOCIS advocates for a whole school approach to healthy eating and is committed to increasing the capacity of every person involved in running school canteens.

### Vision

For a nutritious and sustainable food service to be provided in all schools and in the broader community throughout Australia.

### Mission

FOCIS will support, promote, facilitate and empower school communities, state and territory Associations and Networks, government and food industry to enable stakeholders to make decisions that result in healthy food services by providing tools, resources and information.

### Objects

1. To improve the health of Australian school children through the delivery of nutritious and healthy foods. This will be delivered by developing and promoting position statements on current national issues for food services in Australia.
2. To advocate and support the broader community, school governing bodies, state canteen associations and networks, governments and industry on the value of nutritious and healthy foods.
3. To promote healthy, safe and sustainable high quality food and drinks for Australian canteens.
4. The property and the income of the Association shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association and no part of the property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects.

## Membership benefits

There are three pillars of FOCIS membership benefits:

### 1. *Advocating for school canteens*

- Advocate for the canteen workforce and a whole school approach to healthy eating
- Help shape the direction of health promotion activities and food environments in schools and canteens
- Be part of a nationally coordinated approach providing advice to government, non-government organisations and the broader community about school canteens
- Opportunities to work with and lobby food industry to enable positive change to the food and drinks manufactured for and supplied in school canteens.

### 2. *Working in partnership*

- Form valuable partnerships, extend your skills and knowledge and gain support from others through working with other FOCIS members who have many collective years of experience and a variety of relevant skills e.g. canteen staff, health and education professionals and academics
- Contribute to projects or initiatives and attend events on behalf of FOCIS. Recent collaborations include Centre for Food & Allergy Research; Healthy Food Partnership; National Allergy Strategy; Public Health Prevention Conference
- Identify areas to advocate for and support schools, canteens and staff. Develop new resources, seek funding opportunities, engage with other likeminded groups
- Collaborate with others to enhance opportunities for funding e.g. eligibility to apply for Commonwealth funding, and to share resources.

### 3. *Education*

- Be informed on a national level about current activities in schools, education, health and other related fields e.g. community food services, food industry, including food labelling and food safety and hygiene
- Build leadership and governance skills through engaging in office bearing positions on the Committee of Management
- Enhance knowledge and skills through participating in the development of tools and resources for school canteens
- Participate (where skills and capacity exists and/or nominate a suitably qualified representative) in the nutrient criteria review as part of the food registration program.

## Meetings

FOCIS meetings are generally held every eight weeks from February to November (minimum once per quarter), via teleconference and once per year face to face. This meeting includes the Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled between July and December.

The location of the AGM varies for example, Brisbane (2018), Darwin (2017), Perth (2016) and FOCIS covers all or part travel expenses (e.g. flights and accommodation) for *Ordinary Members* to attend. The meeting often includes strategic planning, professional development and/or guest speakers. For example, in 2018 members participated in an advocacy workshop.

## Membership application

Applications may be presented at any time and will be tabled at the next scheduled meeting. Memberships and Committee of Management positions are renewed annually at the AGM. FOCIS membership is currently free of charge.

### Member details

Name:	
Organisation:	<i>(If applicable)</i>
Address:	
Phone:	
Mobile:	
Email:	
Brief bio:	<i>(e.g. qualifications; role etc.)</i>

### Membership categories

- Ordinary Members and Life members (voting):** persons, associations, agencies or relevant not-for-profit organisations who support the objects of the Association, are concerned in child health, nutrition and business management in school canteens and who are motivated to further the interests of school canteens in Australian States and Territories. Examples include, but are not limited to, representatives of Canteen Associations and Network, health promotion organisations, health and education government departments.

*Note: Life membership is a nominated position awarded to a member who has given outstanding service to FOCIS*

- Affiliate members (non-voting)**  
Persons engaged with affiliated entities or invited from health, education, community organisations or like-minded organisations who do not intend to vote.

### Declaration

I \_\_\_\_\_ have read and declare my support for the objectives of FOCIS Inc.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer		Seconder	
Name		Name	
Signed		Signed	
Date		Date	