



Board Evaluation

An online survey developed to assist nonprofit boards to undertake an assessment of their strengths and areas for development.

This assessment offers a simple and easy way for each board member to assess the board's performance based on good governance standards and best practice.

The feedback from each board member is combined into a customised report that provides a clear and concise view of how the board views its performance in five specific areas:

- 1 Knowledge
- 2 Duties
- 3 Meeting performance
- 4 Commitment and diligence
- 5 Governance

The report becomes a powerful tool that can help board's measure growth and set goals in order to strengthen their performance. It promotes a cycle of continuous improvement in board governance, so as to advance the organisation's mission.

Survey Design

The survey has been designed by Dr Ruth Knight to assess some of the key standards that indicate whether an organisation is running effectively and following good practice. The questions have also been designed to reflect the good governance principles outlined in *The Source: Twelve Principles of Governance That Power Exceptional Boards* available from BoardSource. In consultation with a group of governance experts, BoardSource defined the common traits and actions of exceptional boards. Aspirational in nature, these principles provide board members with a vision of what is possible and a way to add lasting value to the organisations they lead.

Survey Process

The survey is accessed online by board members through a unique link that is completely confidential, requiring only the identification of the organisation. The survey comprises 53 questions with an opportunity to provide additional comments. A covering letter is supplied to the organisation to assist them to promote the assessment to their board members. The organisation chooses its own closing date but it is recommended that board members are given between one and four weeks to complete the survey.

Reporting

Once the closing date has passed, Zark Consultancy collates the data and provides the organisation with a report within two weeks. Only the collated data is provided in the report, not individual answers.

The report allows the organisation to review the results and agree on board development and improvement goals.

Benchmarking

Data from a large number of boards is being collected by Zark Consultancy to establish benchmarks and comparisons in the non-profit sector. This will eventually provide organisations with feedback about their own board performance benchmarked against other organisations' performance. Organisation names will remain anonymous in any future reports.

Survey Cost

Nonprofit organisations AUD \$297 (plus GST). Includes a free Board Development Template.

Contact Details

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