



Things To Consider Before Joining A Board

The success of a not-for-profit generally depends on public support and confidence. They also rely on a mix of skills at the board level to provide appropriate strategic direction to the organisation. If you are thinking of putting yourself forward for a board position, it's worth taking some time to consider which board might be best suited to you. To help with your decision making, we've included below some of the things that you might like to consider before accepting a board nomination.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE ORGANISATION?

First and foremost, the organisation should have a clearly defined purpose. As a board member, you should feel connected to and inspired by that purpose. The purpose should drive you to make a contribution to the organisation. Without that connection and inspiration, the role might limit your desire to make an effective and authentic contribution.

WHAT IS THE ORGANISATION'S REPUTATION?

Perform some due diligence of the organisation to gain an understanding of their reputation in the community. What is the community's perception of the organisation? Do they pay bills on time, how do they treat their staff, how do they interact with stakeholders, does the organisation achieve its stated goals? These are all questions linked to the organisation's reputation and should be considered prior to joining the board. At the end of the day, the reputation of the organisation will also become a reflection of your reputation in the community.

WHAT IS THE ORGANISATION'S CORPORATE GOVERNANCE?

A good organisation will have clearly documented corporate governance policies in place. These should be reviewed prior to joining a board to get an idea of your role within the organisation and who is accountable to the board. Are you comfortable with the delegation limits in place? (ie. the CEO is authorised to spend up to \$x without board approval. Do you consider it appropriate for the organisation?)

Also consider what reports will be provided to the board to monitor the organisation's progress. Without a mechanism for monitoring the organisation it will be difficult to determine whether the organisation is effectively achieving its mission.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

Serving on a board should be considered both an honour and a commitment. Your participation at meetings will be key. Generally organisations have a regular meeting schedule set for some time in advance and you should have these in your calendar. Make sure that you have the time available to not only attend the regular meetings but also to properly prepare for the meetings.

WHAT ARE YOUR LEGAL AND FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES?

Serving on a board comes with some particular legal and fiduciary responsibilities. These responsibilities will be dependent on the type of structure of the organisation. For instance, a company structure makes the directors personally liable for debts if the company trades while insolvent. Are you comfortable with your responsibilities and the possible consequences?

The ability to give back to your community through joining a board is most certainly something worth considering. Take the time to find that organisation that fits with your values and passions, and it can be a very rewarding experience.

If you need some advice regarding your particular circumstances, please give our team a call on
(07) 4927 4588 (Rocky) or (07) 4939 1766 (Yeppoon)

**WE ARE DRIVEN TO
UNDERSTAND WHAT YOUR
FINANCIAL GOALS ARE, AND
HELP YOU ACHIEVE THEM.**

- BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT STRATEGIES
- BUSINESS STRUCTURES AND SUCCESSION PLANNING
- SELF MANAGED SUPERANNUATION FUNDS
- TAXATION AND ACCOUNTING
- AUDITING AND ASSURANCE



ROCKHAMPTON • YEPPON • EMERALD



EVANSEDDWARDS.COM.AU



EVANS EDWARDS

ACCOUNTANTS | AUDITORS | BUSINESS ADVISORS