



**Exercise & Sports Science Australia Response to  
the  
Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019  
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## Introduction

Exercise & Sport Science Australia (ESSA) is the peak professional body for 8,000 university trained exercise professionals whose members are Accredited Exercise Physiologists (who design & deliver effective programs for people with chronic conditions, injuries or disabilities) & Accredited Exercise Scientists (who work to improve the health, fitness & well-being of the general population).

ESSA supports the establishment of the health promotion agency, Health and Wellbeing Queensland (HWQ) and its role in:

- improving the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders;
- reducing the risk factors associated with chronic disease; and
- reducing health inequities.

ESSA welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on several aspects of the Bill and gives its permission for this submission to be published.

## Recommendations

### **Division 2 Membership – Clause 18 Board members**

ESSA recommends the Board always have an odd number of positions to minimise the instances whereby the Chairperson needs to exercise a casting vote as follows:

To achieve an odd number of board members, ESSA recommends **an alteration to Clause 18 (1)(b)**

**(1) The board consists of the following persons (each a board member)—**

- (a) at least 1, and not more than 4, chief executives;**
- (b) at least 1, and not more than 5, other persons.**

ESSA proposes that the principle of gender equity be enshrined within the Bill in **a new Sub-Clause 18 (5)** as follows:

**A minimum of 40% of board members shall be female.**

## **Division 2 Membership – 21 Term of appointment**

In line with good governance principles, ESSA recommends that a staggered rotation system for Board members with a maximum term in office. This enables the Board to renew and refresh but at the same time as retain a solid base of corporate memory. ESSA further recommends Board members can only be appointed for a maximum of two terms, assuming terms are four years.

To embed good governance principles in the operation of the Board, ESSA recommends **an amendment to Sub-clause 21 (2) and new sub-clauses 21 (3) and (4):**

### **21 Term of appointment**

**(1) A board member holds office for the term, not longer than 4 years, stated in the member’s instrument of appointment.**

**(2) Subsection (1) does not prevent a board member being reappointed for a maximum of two terms.**

**(3) A simple majority of Board members will initially be appointed for the maximum term.**

**The remaining Board members will be initially be appointed for a term that is half of the maximum term.**

**(4) All appointments after the initial appointments will be for the maximum term.**