Terms of Reference

Research Special Interest Group

Purpose
The Research Special Interest Group (SIG) is to be introduced during the first half of 2016. The role of the Research SIG is to:
- Support the vision and objectives of the Society.
- Develop an Australasian research strategy.
- Collaborate with research organisations to advance nursing and allied health research into kidney disease and associated treatments and interventions.

Committee Structure
The Research SIG will consist of RSA members with skills or an interest in research. It is envisioned that the Research SIG will consist of both novice and experienced researchers who will support each other in the advancement of renal-related research.

A representative from Australian Kidney Trials Network (AKTN) will sit on the Research SIG in an advisory capacity.

The Board may nominate a Director to sit on the SIG in a co-opted role if appropriate.

Key service providers to the Society may also attend and participate in SIG meetings, as well as provide secretarial support as required.

Reporting
The proceedings of all meetings of the SIG will be documented and presented on the agenda of the next Board meeting.

Meeting Frequency
The SIG will meet at least quarterly, by teleconference. SIG members may be required to meet in smaller working groups outside of the formal meetings to progress projects. There will be a dedicated, restricted-access portal on the RSA website for SIG discussions to proceed and documents to be stored.

Authority / Decision Making
- The SIG is formed under the auspices of the Society’s Board of Directors to develop and coordinate the research strategy that aligns with the research needs of members and the Society.
- The SIG will not have a budget however meeting expenses, including teleconference facilities, will be covered under the Society’s operating budget.
- The SIG does not have the authority to execute contracts independently.
- The SIG may make recommendations to the RSA Board in relation to research initiatives although it has no authority to enforce decisions.
- Decision process – by consensus.