

# HSRAANZ

## Special Interest Groups

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### What are Special Interest Groups (SIGs)?

**Special Interest groups (SIGs) are established by members of HSRAANZ who have an interest in facilitating, advancing and promoting a particular area of interest in Health Services Research.**

They provide a way for health services researchers with shared interests and expertise to participate in the development of specialist interests, exchange views, disseminate information, provide support, promote research, develop professional skills and organise activities such as workshops at the HSRAANZ Biennial Conference. SIGs should also promote the Association and encourage Association membership.

### How are SIGs Established?

Members can submit a proposal to the HSRAANZ Executive Committee to establish a SIG if they can demonstrate a significant interest amongst members or a particular need for such a group. For the same reasons, the Executive Committee may recommend the establishment of a SIG.

Each SIG must draw up its own terms of reference and appoint an Australian and a New Zealand organiser from the HSRAANZ membership to oversee its development and activities. Both the Terms of Reference and the appointment of organisers must be endorsed by the Executive Committee. The organisers of each SIG may be co-opted to Executive Committee and will generally take turns to attend meetings and report on their SIGs activities.

SIGs operate under the constitution of the HSRAANZ and those actively involved in a group should be encouraged to become financial members of the HSRAANZ. The two organisers of a group must be members of the Association.

The organisers must keep a list of members of the group.

### How do SIGs Operate?

They may provide advice to the Association on their areas of expertise but should not speak on behalf of the Association unless the Executive endorses this.

It is up to the members involved to determine how a SIG operates and what activities it organises. The HSRAANZ will assist with the establishment of web based communication facilities but activities generated by such communication technologies must be moderated by members of the SIG.

The HSRAANZ will also maintain a page on its website for SIGs. SIGs will be encouraged to provide news and articles of interest for the HSRAANZ Website and HSRAANZ Newsletter which is issued each quarter.

Opportunities will be provided for groups to meet at the HSRAANZ's annual general meeting and biennial

conference and to run conference workshops.

SIGs may submit ideas to the Executive for activities and events (including budgets) and will be consulted on conference activities relevant to the group. However, the HSRAANZ will not provide any automatic financial support for a SIG

Each SIG will report on its activities to the Association's Annual General Meeting and a SIG may be dissolved if the Executive Committee deems that the group has been inactive for the previous 12 months.