



The Value of IVD Australia Membership

Trade Associations such as IVD Australia provide representation and other services to businesses with common interests. In return for a subscription or membership fee, associations offer services and sometimes products, including networking, training, educational material, conferences, technical advice and publications to name but a few.

One of the major benefits however is representation where the Association acts as a representative body putting forward the collective view and position of its members, generally to government departments, agencies and regulators but also to the media and other opinion formers. Such associations are usually non-profit organisations with a governing body made up of elected representatives from its members.

Who is IVD Australia ...

IVD Australia is the peak body representing sponsors and manufacturers of *in vitro* diagnostics.

In vitro, literally “*in glass*” diagnostics (IVDs) comprises the instruments, reagents and consumables that are used to perform pathology tests requested by General Practitioners (GPs), specialist Physicians or other healthcare professionals, or those undertaken as part of a screening program. These tests are generally performed in accredited Public and Private pathology laboratories across Australia, but IVDs also include over-the-counter tests such as blood glucose meters for diabetes testing and home pregnancy test kits. Supply of these products in Australia is regulated for the Government by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). In February 2010, the Government, through the TGA, introduced a substantial upgrading of the regulations covering IVDs that became effective on July 1st 2010.

IVD Australia was formed in July 2009 and currently represents Australian manufacturers, multinational and local distributors of IVDs as well as regulatory consultants working in the IVD space. Our 60 members supply products in Australia valued at over \$800,000,000 per annum and they employ around 2000 people across Australia.

IVD Australia is a Company Limited by Guarantee. This means that it is prevented from paying dividends to members and all surplus funds must be used for the benefits of members. It is a non-profit taxable public company and has a Board of 7 Directors elected from the membership on rotating two year terms.

The Chief Executive Officer is Dr Peter Harman who has had substantial experience in the IVD and life science research sectors.

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Companies should join IVD Australia because

- In the long term it is in their financial interest to do so. IVD Australia sits at the heart of the Australian pathology sector and offers many benefits to members. These include representation on the Department of Health and Ageing Committees dealing with Pathology Reimbursement and on the introduction of new Pathology items. We also provide training on regulatory and quarantine issues that can assist members with TGA and AQIS issues.
- IVD Australia with its 60 members is recognised by Government as the voice of the IVD sector and is able to represent members at every level of Government. We provide the Government with the assurance that they are getting a fully considered view of what is best for the Pathology sector. This is an extremely powerful asset for members and as the membership base grows, so does IVD Australia's influence.
- IVD Australia is trusted and central to the IVD sector in Australia. We can uniquely offer a wide range of information and contacts that no-one else can provide easily across a range of communication methods. Companies often find difficulty in dealing with regulators and government departments on policy issues and IVD Australia offers a way of doing this in a non-confrontational manner.
- IVD Australia offers members the ability to interact with other groups in the pathology sectors in a non-competitive environment. We have representation on and interaction with AACB, RCPA, AIMS, ASM, Standards Australia and NATA committees and subgroups.
- IVD Australia provides a Code of Conduct covering all members which gives the assurance of a fair and level playing field in which all industry companies can participate. The Code of Conduct is administered via two Committees with independent Chairs; a Code Administration Committee and a Code Complaints Committee
- We facilitate the opportunity for members to network with their peers at events organised specifically to provide learning regarding issues which may affect companies.
- IVD Australia undertakes special projects which benefit members or the pathology industry as a whole. For example, we have worked recently with the Australian Association of Pathology Practices (AAPP) over recent months to identify the key messages that the sector should be putting to Government and the Health consumer.
- IVD Australia provides immediate updates to our members regarding changes in the pathology sector including standards, regulations, policy and news. These are communicated via regular CEO e-newsletters and at Update functions.
- Finally, membership of IVD Australia confers enhancement of a company's reputation on joining IVD Australia. Membership of the peak body is seen as a badge of quality and responsibility, particularly with the Government and regulatory agencies.