

BROOKER



Candidate Information Pack

President



The Company

Stroke Foundation

Executive Summary

The Stroke Foundation is Australia's national charity dedicated to preventing stroke, saving lives, and enhancing recovery. Representing more than 440,000 survivors of stroke, their families, carers, and the broader stroke community, the organisation delivers impact across prevention, acute care, rehabilitation, lived-experience support, research, advocacy, and national awareness.

Founded in 1996, the Foundation has grown into the trusted leader in stroke prevention and recovery, significantly influencing public awareness, clinical practice, government policy, and health-equity initiatives. With Strategy 2027: Stronger Together, the Foundation is accelerating momentum in prevention (especially hypertension), national education campaigns, evidence-based care, digital transformation, and lived-experience-powered services.

The Foundation is now seeking a new President (Board Chair), following the planned transition of Emeritus Professor Linda Kristjanson AO within the next six months. The incoming Chair joins at a highly strategic moment—described by the Board as “joining a fast-moving train at an exciting time.”



The Company

Stroke Foundation



Snapshot

Vision: Fewer strokes, better outcomes, support and care for all

Mission: Prevent stroke. Save lives. Enhance recovery

Values: Courage, Excellence, Compassion, Integrity, Leadership

Guiding Principles: Lived experience, Evidence-based, Inclusive, Collaborative, Always improving, National

Annual Impact:

- 440,000 Australians living with stroke
- Stroke every 11 minutes
- 80% of strokes are preventable

Operating Budget: Approximately \$20M

Funding: No recurrent government funding—reliant on tenders, philanthropy, fundraising, wills & bequests

National footprint: Offices in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Hobart

Key Pillars: Prevent Stroke, Save Lives, Enhance Recovery

The Company

Stroke Foundation

Governance & Ownership

Stroke Foundation is governed by a highly respected, non-executive Board of Directors:

- Up to 13 Directors
- 9 independent members, including President and Vice President
- 4 special interest members representing:
 - Lived experience (2)
 - Clinical sector
 - Research sector

Board committees include:

- Audit, Finance, Investment & Risk Committee (FIRC)
- Governance & Nominations Committee (GNC)
- Philanthropy Committee
- Research Advisory Committee
- Clinical Council & Stroke Prevention Advisory Committee
- Lived Experience Council

Board culture is described as high-functioning, collegial, positive, purpose-driven, and strongly aligned with the CEO and Executive Team.



The Company

Stroke Foundation

Culture & Values

Stroke Foundation's culture reflects deep compassion, integrity, collaboration, and profound respect for people with lived experience of stroke.

The organisation stresses:

- Empathy and mission alignment in all leaders
- The use of "lived experience," not "consumer"—a deliberate and meaningful distinction
- A strong commitment to equity, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, CALD communities, and rural and regional Australia
- An environment described as positive, cohesive, and ethical
- A desire to strengthen diversity within the Board and leadership, over time

Initiatives & Strategic Momentum

The organisation is recognised for several national flagship programs:

- F.A.S.T. National Stroke Awareness Campaign
- Australia's Biggest Blood Pressure Check
- Living Clinical Guidelines for Stroke Management
- My Stroke Journey, EnableMe & Strokeline
- National Stroke Audit & Quality Improvement
- Childhood Stroke & Young Stroke Programs
- Australian Stroke Alliance – pioneering portable brain imaging technology
- Stride4Stroke fundraising campaign

Recent organisational achievements include:

- Significant growth in advocacy reach, media visibility, and government engagement
- Strong partnership-building under CEO Dr Lisa Murphy
- A sharpened focus on education and prevention, especially hypertension
- Strengthened national presence and geographic diversity on the Board
- Enhanced financial stability, despite lack of guaranteed government funding

The Company

Stroke Foundation

Organisational Structure

Stroke Foundation is led by the Chief Executive Officer, who oversees an Executive Team across:

- Prevention & Advocacy
- Health Programs & Quality Improvement
- Research, Innovation & Clinical Partnerships
- Survivor and Carer Support Services
- Fundraising, Philanthropy & Partnerships
- Finance, Risk & Corporate Services
- People & Culture
- Digital, Data & Technology

The CEO reports directly to the President. Committees provide governance, financial stewardship, research oversight, philanthropy leadership, and lived-experience integration.

Location & Lifestyle

The National Office is based in Melbourne, where three Board meetings per year are held face-to-face (including a two-day strategic workshop). Other meetings are conducted via video meetings, enabling the President to reside anywhere in Australia. Reasonable travel is expected for key events, donor engagement, and strategic relationships.

Additional Notes

- Stroke Foundation is not federated, which allows for clear national strategy and governance.
- The organisation emphasises education and prevention as transformative public health opportunities.
- With 80% of strokes preventable, the advocacy case is compelling, urgent, and deeply motivating for leaders with passion for community health.

The Role

President / Board Chair

About the role

The President (Board Chair) provides strategic leadership, governance excellence, and external representation for the Stroke Foundation.

They steward Board culture, support the CEO, elevate public visibility, strengthen relationships with government and donors, and ensure the organisation delivers on its vision and mission.

This is a high-profile national leadership role requiring both sophisticated governance capability and deep personal alignment with the mission.

The purpose

- Provide exceptional governance and uphold ACNC standards
- Lead and unify the Board, ensuring integrity, accountability, and strategic clarity
- Serve as a trusted partner and advisor to the CEO
- Strengthen national profile, influence, and fundraising capacity
- Represent the organisation with authenticity, empathy, and authority
- Ensure the lived experience of stroke informs all decisions



The Role

President / Board Chair

Key Deliverables

Governance & Board Leadership

- Lead high-quality, strategic Board deliberations
- Set the tone for compassionate, values-driven governance
- Ensure best practice in performance, risk oversight, succession planning, communication, and evaluation
- Maintain a Board culture described as positive, collaborative, and courageous

Strategic Partnership with CEO

- Maintain a close, transparent working relationship
- Provide guidance on strategy, politics, advocacy, fundraising and stakeholder matters
- Lead CEO recruitment, performance reviews, and development processes

External Engagement

Because the organisation has no dependable government funding, the Chair plays a critical role in:

- Philanthropic stewardship, particularly major donors and bequest partners
- Government relationships and policy advocacy
- Media representation (where appropriate)
- Opening strategic partnerships through networks and influence

Committee Engagement

- Chair the Governance & Nominations Committee
- Attend key FIRC meetings
- Engage with Philanthropy Committee as required



The Role

President / Board Chair

Experience, Knowledge & Skills



Required

- Minimum 5 years experience chairing a board or similar governance body
- GAICD or equivalent governance qualifications
- Demonstrated experience leading a Board through growth, change, and complexity
- Strong commercial acumen
- Deep stakeholder engagement capability, including government, philanthropy, donors
- Exceptional communication and presence

Personal Attributes

- Warm, empathetic, grounded
- Mission-led; purpose-driven
- Values alignment evident in behaviour and communication
- Capable of representing lived experience with dignity and respect
- Confident, composed, and collaborative
- Described as “speaking with energy, purpose and authenticity”

The Role

President / Board Chair

Experience, Knowledge & Skills

Highly Valued

Authentic connection to mission

- Through lived or family experience of stroke or similar health conditions
- Through demonstrated compassion and relational generosity
- Cultural diversity, First Nations leadership, or strong experience serving diverse communities

Experience in:

- Public health
- Advocacy
- Fundraising / bequest stewardship
- Tender or government contract environments
- Commercialisation of services or innovation



The Process

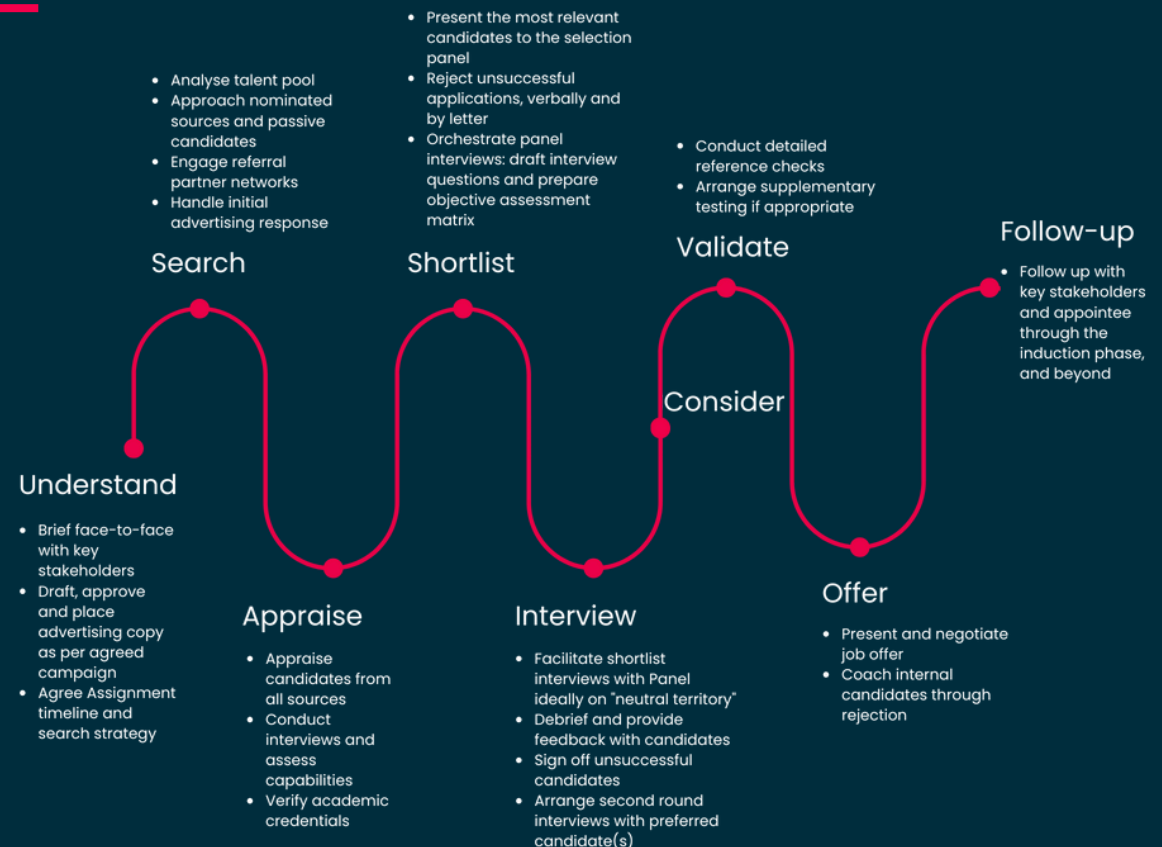
Brooker Consulting

Our process

Brooker Consulting is proud to partner with Stroke Foundation on this appointment. All applications and approaches will be managed in strict confidence.

Shortlisted candidates will first meet with Brooker Consulting before proceeding to client interviews with the Stroke Foundation Board.

Interviews are scheduled for mid to late February 2026, with an appointment anticipated around the end of March.



The Timeline

Brooker Consulting





The Why

Why This Role Matters

Stroke is one of Australia's biggest health challenges—and one of its most preventable. With 80% of strokes preventable, strong leadership can shift outcomes for generations.

Why This Timing Is Exceptional

- The Foundation is undertaking significant national momentum in advocacy, policy influence, and public awareness.
- The Board is well-functioning, positive, and collegial—described as “a really good group of people.”
- The CEO is a high-impact leader, and partnership opportunities are expanding rapidly.
- Strategy 2027 is mid-cycle—perfect timing for a new Chair to influence the next decade of strategic direction.

What the President Gains

- National profile and influence in a major health mission
- Opportunity to lead a mature, stable Board and respected CEO
- Ability to open doors that reshape public health outcomes
- Deep personal reward from supporting survivors and families
- An opportunity to make a significant, enduring social impact

About Us

Brooker Consulting

The company

We connect visionary leaders with organisations that matter

Our mission is to connect you with career opportunities that are not just jobs, but pathways to making a significant impact in your chosen field.

Your search team

Brooker Consulting is a specialist executive search firm with a strong track record across biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, healthcare, and research organisations.





Rebecca Perrone
Managing Director

With over two decades of experience in Executive Search, Rebecca brings a multidisciplinary background spanning clinical nursing, academia, pharmaceuticals, biotech and executive search. This unique blend gives her deep insight into the leadership attributes required to navigate complex, highly regulated and purpose-driven environments. At Brooker Consulting, she leads executive appointments across clinical, commercial, governance and strategy portfolios.



Leighton Cantrill
Senior Consultant

Leighton is a curious and energetic executive search consultant with over 20 years of national and international experience across multiple industries. Leading the Brooker Consulting Interim practice, Leighton specialises in sourcing highly agile and capable talent who have the technical and human skills to fulfil a short-term leadership gap. Throughout his career has worked in Melbourne, Sydney, and further afield in London and Vancouver.



Jeremy Wurm
Founder

On completion of postgraduate studies in mental health, Jeremy spent nearly eight years in pharmaceutical roles in the Netherlands and the UK before retraining as an executive search consultant in London in 1987. After returning to Australia, he undertook senior assignments in Adelaide and Melbourne before establishing Brooker Consulting in 1999. Brooker became part of the Lawson HR Group in 2018, and Jeremy retired from full-time employment in 2024, having personally placed 320 CEOs and 70 NEDs. He is now retained by Brooker in a casual role, providing tactical and strategic advice to the Managing Director and consulting team.



Candidate Information Pack

Chief Executive Officer

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