SASTA Professional Development Reference Group (PDRG)
Terms of Reference

Membership

Chairperson, minutes secretary and at least 5 other financial members and relevant experts, preferably from a range of school settings, levels of schooling and other organisations.

Objectives

1. Plan and manage a calendar of quality assured professional development activities for SASTA members and teachers of science, that caters for their needs and provides for equity of access. This includes conferences, workshops and other professional development activities.

Activities

1. Meet at regular intervals to implement and discuss any matters related to the delivery of professional development.
2. Appoint convenors for professional development activities and assign tasks to RG members where appropriate.
3. Seek and act upon feedback from the membership as to the nature and frequency of professional development activities.
4. Liaise with the SASTA Board and Secretariat and other professional associations and relevant organisations to ensure the program meets the membership's needs, is well publicised and is in accordance with other SASTA activities.
5. Explore other professional development activities that may arise at the request of the SASTA membership.
6. Provide a forum through which SASTA members can raise professional development matters.

Reporting

1. Report the activities of the PDRG to the SASTA Board as required.
2. At each meeting, have an agenda item that enables the SASTA Board to have input into the activities of the PDRG.

Currently, the PDRG is responsible for input into the following:

- Providing high quality conferences that satisfy the SASTA membership, currently: Annual, STEM, Psychology, Beginning Teachers Conferences;
- Organising targeted workshops e.g. for early career, primary and upper secondary teachers or using facilities like the BOM;
- Chairing post final exam seminars for Stage 2 teachers;
- Overseeing Exam Preparation Guide Seminars for students;
- Developing workshops and conferences with other organisations like universities and other professional organisations e.g. DATTA, EdTechSA, MASA, ACHPER;
- Advocating regarding the curriculum e.g. feedback to SACE Board and ACARA;
- Liaising with ASTA regarding the hosting of CONASTA;
- Encouraging pre-service teachers to consider joining SASTA, e.g. offering scholarships to attend conferences
- Trialling ways to mentor new teachers.
- Ensuring inclusion of workshops suitable for Laboratory Officers when appropriate;

The following strategies could be used to increase professional development services to members:
- Source PD resources for placement on the SASTA website after considering copyright issues;
- Explore ways to use technology to service members based in country areas;
- Investigate ways to support professional development opportunities for Laboratory Officers, especially in country areas