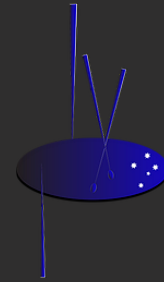


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Oct 1, 2019



Better service to members

National councillors have given initial support to a White Paper proposal for a part-time executive officer for Pipe Bands Australia. Councillors at their biennial conference in Melbourne this month approved the preparation of modelling for future consideration a paid part-time executive officer (secretary).

Modelling will now be prepared for future consideration to provide honorarium/remuneration for the secretary's position.

The PBA review panel wrote in the White Paper: "Pipe Bands Australia is a volunteer-based national organisation - the volunteer ethos underpins our national association, branches, bands and members and this should remain the centrepiece of involvement in the pipe band movement as it contributes to personal and community growth and strengthening of the social fabric.

"However, evidence gathered from by the Review Panel from office-holders around the nation indicates that the current time commitment in promptly attending to administrative requirements is considerable and the Panel acknowledges that Pipe Bands Australia is fortunate to have devoted and committed volunteers giving of their time and expertise.

"Volunteer-based organisations face the reality of individuals "burning out" as they strive to deliver in a time or resource-deprived environment the professional service that is expected by modern society.

"The engagement of a part-time executive officer would assist in providing support and resources to volunteers and contribute to growth in the enjoyment by volunteers of their involvement in the pipe band movement. Further, the Review Panel has identified that such a position would be beneficial in extending the period of active volunteering."

A White Paper recommendation to reduce the size of national council, introduction of portfolio areas of responsibility and increase the frequency of council meetings was not adopted by councillors. However, councillors voted to continue to review, discuss and assess the further streamlining of the administrative structure with a view to transitioning to that of a board within five years with preparation of a further discussion paper for the 2021 conference.





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