# Discussion Paper: Planning for the Future

*For inclusion in your governing body meeting papers, and discussion in your next*

*meeting.*

**Meeting date:** Click or tap here to enter text.

**Agenda item number**: Click or tap here to enter text.

**Paper type**: For discussion

**The governing body’s role in strategic planning**

Setting effective strategy requires the governing body to take an active role in planning, implementing and evaluating their organisation’s objectives. In practical terms, this means that the governing body must understand the sector in which it operates, how the organisation operates, risk outcomes and performance metrics. It must implement actions and monitor the organisation’s performance to inform and update the organisation’s strategic priorities.

Providing insight and guidance without taking control

Through the governing body's unique position, governing body members can contribute by providing insights into, for example:

1. The aged care policy context, clinical expertise and aged care sector trends.
2. Their understanding and expertise in the regulatory environment.
3. Expertise in attracting and retaining talent.
4. Experience accumulated during their professional careers or roles in the community.
5. New perspectives, challenging thinking, continuous improvement and fresh ideas.

BEFORE THE MEETING

To ensure the most productive discussion within the governing body meeting:

* Complete **Module 5: The Reform Journey Ahead** (20min)
* Read **Topic Guide – Strategic Planning** (10min)

Review **progress against objectives and** **policies and procedures specific to your** **organisation**, including for example:*current**strategic plan, framework for strategic planning process, list of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) or other metrics used to measure success against strategic plan, CEO or other management-level workplan, current results against strategic plan.*

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| QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION1. Does the governing body have a working understanding of the organisation and the sector so that it can assist in driving opportunities under the reform journey, set insightful strategic plans and make effective decisions?
2. How does the process for strategy development include the insights and challenges of the governing body members and other stakeholders?
3. How often is the strategic plan reviewed and updated? Does the time horizon align with a medium-longer term view of where the service needs to head in the reform context?
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You might also find it useful to check out the Topic Guide on **Technology & Cyber Security** and the podcase titled **Strategy & Innovating for Change in Aged Care**.