

Board Governance Appraisals / Board Effectiveness and Board Compliance Assessments

Is your Board operating to best practice in governance and complying with mandated governance codes chosen to enhance board performance?

The effectiveness of a board and its ability to provide effective oversight, is of utmost importance in directing and monitoring the performance of your organisation.

Utilising best practice and being knowledgeable on the latest trends and thinking on governance, based on case history, can help boards become more effective when setting the organisation's strategic direction.

The King Code on best practice in corporate governance calls for an annual review of a board's performance. Board reviews are, however, also called for near the end of a board's tenure. This is typically the case when an entirely new board is nominated for a new term, as is often observed in the public sector.

It is also important that board members consistently value each other's contributions and that there are no non-performing or disruptive members. This applies equally to the members of board sub-committees. For this reason, conducting peer review assessments has become useful.

Board Assessments and Peer Reviews can be undertaken on a confidential basis to assist a board to improve its performance, thereby ensuring it remains credible, knowledgeable and has totally committed, caring board members.

A Board Governance Appraisal / Assessment Report typically includes:

- reviewing all board governance and management meeting documentation for compliance against governance practices. This includes gaining important insights into the organisation's performance;
- compiling an assessment questionnaire, appropriate to the organisation (generic assessment questionnaires are not used), based on the gaps established during the governance documentation review process;
- interviewing all board members and members of sub-committees as required; and
- compiling an assessment report, considering the general findings and results of peer reviews.

A highly skilled and experienced StratNovation team conducts Board Governance Assessments to ensure that a robust measuring instrument is utilised and is consistent for each year of assessment.


The benefits of utilising skilled governance researchers to undertake a Board Governance Assessment assignment are:

- practical insights into the relationship between the board and the executives in the organisation that are gained through knowledge and experience;
- understanding the board's most important roles in determining the strategic direction of the organisation;
- value-added insights into how a board should operate to enable the organisation to perform optimally;
- objectivity in undertaking the assessment of the board and peer-to-peer reviews, if required; and
- considerations that the organisation's performance and sustainability interests remain the top priority instead of personal vested interests being promulgated.


StratNovation's governance research guides clients through the entire research process. The resultant report and recommendations will enable improvement decisions to be decisively made by the Chairperson on not only how specifically to improve board performance, but how to improve stakeholder and organisational relations.

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