

Generation Development Group Limited

Corporate Governance Statement

In accordance with ASX Listing Rule 4.10.3, set out below are the ASX Corporate Governance Council's eight principles of good corporate governance (3rd edition) and the extent to which Generation Development Group (the "Company") has sought to comply with the recommendations for each. This statement has been approved by the Board of the Company and is current as at 26 August 2020.

Principle 1: Lay solid foundations for management and oversight

This Principle requires the Company to establish and disclose the respective roles and responsibilities of its board and management and how their performance is monitored and evaluated.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response
<p>1.1 Disclose the respective roles and responsibilities of its board and management and those matters expressly reserved to the Board and those delegated to management</p>	<p>The Board has clear policies and processes to delineate the respective functions, roles and responsibilities of the Board and Management.</p> <p>The Board has adopted a Board Charter that sets out the role, composition and responsibilities reserved by the Board and those specific to the Chairman. The conduct of the Board is also governed by the Constitution of the Company. The Board has also adopted a Delegations Policy which formalises and discloses the financial authorities delegated from the Board to the Chairman, Chief Financial Officer ("CFO") and the Chief Executive Officers ("CEOs") / Managing Directors of the Group and its main operating division Generation Life Limited, as applicable.</p> <p>In fulfilling their duties, each Director may obtain independent professional advice at the expense of the Company, subject to prior approval of the Chairman, whose approval will not be unreasonably withheld.</p> <p>A copy of the Board Charter and Constitution is available on the Company's website.</p>
<p>1.2(a) Undertake appropriate checks before appointing a person as a director or putting them forward to shareholders as a candidate for election</p>	<p>A range of background checks are conducted upon the appointment of new directors to the Board of Generation Development Group and its subsidiaries. These include criminal record, bankruptcy, disqualified persons, education, character and reference checks.</p>
<p>1.2(b) Provide shareholders with material information relevant to a decision whether or not to elect or re-elect a director</p>	<p>With regards to candidates standing for election or re-election as a director at the Company's annual general meeting, the Company will include in its notice of meeting, information which it considers relevant to a decision whether or not to elect or re-elect the person. This includes biographical details, details of other directorships held, independence status and a statement by the Board as to whether it supports the candidate's election or re-election. Any material adverse information revealed by a background check would also be provided.</p>
<p>1.3 Have a written agreement with each director and senior executive setting out terms of their appointment</p>	<p>The Company has entered into a comprehensive letter of appointment with each of its non-executive directors. Service contracts have also been entered into with senior executives.</p>

1.4 Company secretary should be accountable to the Board, through the Chair, on all matters to do with the proper functioning of the Board	The Company Secretary has been appointed to this position by a resolution of the Board. The Company Secretary oversees all board and governance matters and is directly accountable to the Board on matters relating to the proper functioning of the Board.
1.5(a) and (b) Maintain and disclose a Diversity Policy	The Board has adopted a Diversity Policy, a copy of which is available on the Company's website.
1.5(c) Disclose measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity and progress towards achieving them	The Board has not set any measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity however as Board and employee vacancies are filled, attention is given to identifying opportunities for improving gender diversity across the organisation.
1.5(c)(1) Disclose respective proportions of men and women on the board, in senior executive positions and across the whole organisation	The Company provides the following information in relation to the proportion of women employed within the Generation Development Group: <p>Women in organisation: 40%</p> <p>Women on Generation Development Group Executive Team: 0%</p> <p>Women on Generation Life Senior Management Team: 33%</p> <p>Women on Generation Development Group Board: 0%</p> <p>Women on Generation Life Board: 20%</p>
1.6 Maintain and disclose process for periodically evaluating the performance of the board, committees and individual directors and disclose whether performance evaluation undertaken during the period	The Board has adopted a Board and Committee Performance Evaluation Policy, a copy of which is available on the Company's website. This Policy outlines the process for evaluating the performance of the Board, its committees and individual directors. <p>A performance evaluation was not undertaken during the financial year of the Generation Development Group directors, however the directors of Generation Life were subject to an independent performance review.</p>
1.7 Maintain and disclose process for periodically evaluating the performance of senior executives and disclose whether performance evaluation undertaken during the period	There are 4 components to evaluating the performance of senior executives. <p>Prior to the commencement of the financial year, a Budget/strategy session is held involving the Chairman, CFO and CEOs of the Group and Generation Life as applicable and a business plan for the forthcoming year is agreed.</p> <p>Annual performance appraisals of the CFO and the CEOs and their direct reports are conducted in June/ July against agreed KPIs. Biannual reviews are conducted to provide formal feedback to the CFO and the CEOs and their direct reports regarding their individual and team's performance and to plan for the next 6 months. Performance is regularly reviewed at meetings between the Chairman, CFO and the CEOs.</p> <p>Adopting this process, the performance of senior executives was evaluated during the financial year.</p>

Principle 2: Structure the board to add value

This Principle requires the Company to have a board of an appropriate size, composition, skills and commitment to enable it to discharge its duties effectively.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response				
2.1 (a) Maintain a Nomination Committee	The Company does not presently have a Nomination Committee. Having regard to the current size and composition of the Board a separate Committee structure is considered to be unnecessary.				
2.1(b) Disclose processes it employs to address board succession issues and ensure board has appropriate balance to enable it to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively	The Board has adopted a Selection and Appointment of Non-Executive Directors' Policy, a copy of which is available on the Company's website. This Policy outlines the procedure for selecting and appointing non-executive directors and for re-appointing incumbent non-executive directors.				
2.2 Maintain and disclose a board skills matrix setting out the mix of skills and diversity that the board has or is looking to achieve in its membership	<p>The Board considers that collectively its directors have a level of skill, knowledge and experience that enables the Board to effectively discharge its responsibilities and duties. The directors have extensive experience spanning a diverse range of activities and industries, as set out below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 1016 1471 1339"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="411 1016 963 1055">Expertise</th> <th data-bbox="968 1016 1471 1055">Industry Experience</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1061 963 1339"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial • Legal • Risk management • Strategy • Corporate advisory and business recovery • Product development • Executive leadership • Commercial acumen </td> <td data-bbox="968 1061 1471 1339"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial services • Funds management • Superannuation • Financial planning • Life companies and friendly societies </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Expertise	Industry Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial • Legal • Risk management • Strategy • Corporate advisory and business recovery • Product development • Executive leadership • Commercial acumen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial services • Funds management • Superannuation • Financial planning • Life companies and friendly societies
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2.3 Disclose independence of directors, their interests and associations and their length of service	<p>The Board comprises four directors as follows:</p> <p>Rob Coombe <i>Non-Executive Chairman</i> Rob is not regarded as independent as he was an executive until 30 June 2020 and is a substantial shareholder of the Company. He has been a director and Chairman since July 2017.</p> <p>Bill Bessemer <i>Non-Executive Director</i> Bill is not regarded as independent as he is an associate of a substantial shareholder of the Company. He was a director of the Group from 1999-2009 and more recently from February 2012 to the present time.</p> <p>Jonathan Tooth <i>Non-Executive Director</i> Jonathan is not regarded as independent as he is a substantial shareholder of the Company. He has been a director of the Company since May 2012 and prior to that was an employee of the business for over 10 years.</p> <p>John Wheeler <i>Non-Executive Director</i> John is not regarded as independent as he is a substantial shareholder of the Company. He has been a director of the Company since March 2017 and prior to that was CEO of the Group from 1998-2007.</p>				

2.4 Majority of Board should be independent directors	The majority of the Board are not independent directors (see 2.3 above). However, the Board is of the opinion that there is an adequate and broad mix of skills and experience amongst the directors such that each is capable of acting in an independent manner and in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders.
2.5 Chair should be an independent director and not the CEO	Mr Rob Coombe assumed the position of Executive Chairman on 18 July 2017 and became Non-Executive Chairman on 1 July 2020. He is not considered independent. The role of Generation Development Group CEO was held by Grant Hackett until 31 January 2020, when he then became CEO and Managing Director of Generation Life. There is presently no CEO of Generation Development Group.
2.6 Maintain a program for inducing new directors and provide professional development opportunities	The Company does not presently have a formal induction or professional development program for directors. To date, such programs have been considered unnecessary as the current directors are experienced and skilled and well-acquainted with the Generation Development Group.

Principle 3: Act ethically and responsibly

This Principle requires the Company to act ethically and responsibly.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response
3.1 Maintain and disclose a Code of Conduct	The Board believes that the success of the Company will be enhanced by a strong ethical culture within the organisation. To this end, the Board has adopted a Code of Conduct, a copy of which is available on the Company's website.

Principle 4: Safeguard integrity in corporate reporting

This Principle requires the Company to have formal and rigorous processes that independently verify and safeguard the integrity of its corporate reporting.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response
4.1(a) Maintain an Audit Committee	The Company does not presently have an Audit Committee. Having regard to the current size and composition of the Board, a separate Committee structure is considered to be unnecessary. In addition, the Company's main operating division Generation Life has its own audit committee which exercises financial oversight over that business. It is comprised of three Generation Life non-executive directors, all of whom are considered independent, and its Chairman Eric Barr is an independent director.
4.1(b) Disclose processes it employs that independently verify and safeguard the integrity of its corporate reporting including the processes for the appointment and removal of the external auditor and the rotation of the audit engagement partner	<p>In the absence of an Audit Committee, the Board is responsible for verifying and safeguarding the integrity of corporate reporting. Rigorous processes are employed to ensure Generation Development Group's financial reports present a true and fair view and that its accounting methods are relevant, comprehensive and comply with applicable accounting rules and policies.</p> <p>The Board is responsible for appointing the external auditor, subject to confirmation by shareholders at the Company's annual general meeting. In selecting an auditor, the Board will implement a selection and assessment process, which takes into account a number of key criteria, including audit approach and methodology, internal quality control procedures, resources, key personnel and cost. The Board will annually review the external auditor's performance and independence.</p> <p>In line with current professional standards, the external auditor is required to rotate the Generation Development Group audit lead engagement partner at least once every 5 years.</p>
4.2 Receive a declaration from the	Prior to approving the annual and interim financial statements, the Board receives a declaration from the CEO (or equivalent) and CFO that in their opinion the financial records of the Company

CEO and CFO as to the financial statements	have been properly maintained and that the financial statements comply with the appropriate accounting standard and give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Company and that the opinion has been formed on the basis of a sound system of risk management and internal control which is operating effectively.
4.3 Ensure external auditor attends AGM and is available to answer questions from shareholders relevant to the audit	At the Company's request, the external auditor attends the Annual General Meeting each year and is available to answer questions from shareholders in relation to the audit.

Principle 5: Make timely and balanced disclosure

This Principle requires the Company to make timely and balanced disclosure on all matters concerning it that a reasonable person would expect to have a material effect on the price or value of its shares.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response
5.1 Maintain and disclose a continuous disclosure policy	The Board has adopted a Continuous Disclosure Policy, a copy of which is available on the Company's website. This Policy reflects the Board's commitment to ensuring that information that is expected to have a material effect on the price or value of the Company's securities is immediately notified to the ASX for dissemination to the market in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and ASX Listing Rules.

Principle 6: Respect the rights of shareholders

This Principle requires the Company to respect the rights of its shareholders by providing them with appropriate information and facilities to allow them to exercise those rights effectively.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response
6.1 Maintain a website with information about itself and its governance	The Company maintains a website with a dedicated governance section.
6.2 Design and implement an investor relations program	Having regard to the number and nature of its shareholders, the Company does not consider it necessary to have a formal investor relations program. The Company's CFO is the Company's primary investor relations contact and actively engages with shareholders to facilitate effective two-way communication with them. The views of shareholders are regularly conveyed to the Board.
6.3 Disclose policies and processes in place to facilitate and encourage participation at shareholder meetings	The Company holds its annual general meeting in Melbourne. Given that a large proportion of shareholders are domiciled in Victoria, the holding of meetings across multiple venues and the use of technology such as live webcasting has been considered unnecessary to facilitate greater shareholder participation in meetings. Shareholders may ask questions about or make comments on the management of the Company ahead of any annual general meeting. These questions or comments will be addressed at the meeting.
6.4 Give shareholders the option to give and receive communications electronically	Through the Company's share registry Boardroom Pty Ltd, shareholders may elect to receive certain communications electronically.

Principle 7: Recognise and manage risk

This Principle requires the Company to establish a sound risk management framework and periodically review the effectiveness of that framework.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response
7.1 (a) Maintain a Risk Committee	<p>The Company does not presently have a Risk Committee. Having regard to the current size and composition of the Board, a separate committee structure is considered to be unnecessary. In addition, the Company's main operating subsidiary, Generation Life, has its own risk committee. It is comprised of three Generation Life non-executive directors, all of whom are considered independent, and its Chairman Eric Barr is an independent director.</p>
7.1(b) Disclose the processes it employs for overseeing the Company's risk management framework	<p>To comply with APRA Prudential Standards, Generation Life has appointed a Chief Risk Officer to oversee its risk management framework. In this role, the Chief Risk Officer also oversees Generation Development Group's risk management framework.</p> <p>A key element of the risk management framework is the identification and prioritisation of material business risks. These risks are documented in a Risk Register and, where the level of risk is considered to be above the desired level, an action plan is developed to address and mitigate the risk.</p> <p>Risks, the effectiveness of mitigation strategies and the overall management system are regularly reviewed by Management to ensure changing circumstances do not alter the risk priorities. Management reports to the Board on the effectiveness of the Company's management of its material business risks.</p>
7.2 Review the risk management framework at least annually to satisfy itself that it continues to be sound and disclose whether a review has taken place during the period	<p>The Group's risk management framework is subject to continuous enhancement and the Board are satisfied that it continues to be sound.</p> <p>The Generation Life framework is reviewed by Generation Life's internal auditor every year. A review was completed by the internal auditor during the period.</p>
7.3 Disclose whether it has an internal audit function, how it is structured and what role it performs	<p>The Company itself does not have an internal audit function.</p> <p>However, Generation Life maintains an independent internal audit function. The role of internal auditor is fulfilled by Mr George Sutton of Grant Thornton who reports directly to the Generation Life Audit Committee. The internal auditor provides services in accordance with an internal audit plan approved by the Audit Committee each year.</p>
7.4 Disclose whether the Company has any material exposure to economic, environmental and social sustainability risks and how it manages those risks	<p>The Company has no material exposure to environmental or social sustainability risks.</p> <p>The Company considers that it faces a medium level of risk to economic conditions adversely impacting on the Generation Life business through reduced sales volumes and reduced growth in FUM. A number of key controls and management strategies are in place to mitigate this risk including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a financial adviser strategy-based distribution model with strong financial adviser relationships • an expansive investment menu with 49 portfolio options (including cash and tax paid term deposits options) with attractive product features • healthy funds' growth and inflows • a strong track record of product innovation • a product structure where the investment risk is carried by investors.

Principle 8: Remunerate fairly and responsibly

This Principle requires that the Company to pay director remuneration sufficient to attract and retain high quality directors and design its executive remuneration to attract, retain and motivate high quality senior executives and to align their interests with the creation of value for shareholders.

ASX recommendation / disclosure obligation	Company's response
8.1(a) Maintain a Remuneration Committee	The Company does not presently have a Remuneration Committee. Having regard to the current size and composition of the Board, a separate Committee structure is considered to be unnecessary. In addition, the Company's main operating division Generation Life has its own remuneration committee which makes recommendations in relation to the remuneration of the directors and employees of that business. It is comprised of three Generation Life non-executive directors, all of whom are considered independent, and its Chairman Eric Barr is an independent director.
8.1(b) Disclose the processes it employs for setting level and composition of remuneration for directors and senior executives and ensuring that it is appropriate and not excessive	A Remuneration Report, which sets out information about the remuneration of the Company's directors and senior executives for the financial year is included in the Directors' Report.
8.2 Disclose policies and practices regarding the remuneration of non-executive directors and the remuneration of executive directors and other senior executives	<p>The Company distinguishes the structure of non-executive directors' remuneration from that of executive directors and senior executives. Non-executive directors are remunerated by way of fees in the form of cash, non-cash benefits and superannuation contributions. Typically, they do not receive options, bonus payments or shares from the Company. Non-executive directors do not normally participate in schemes designed solely for the remuneration of executives.</p> <p>Executive directors and senior executives' packages generally comprise both a fixed and variable remuneration component comprising short term incentives (STI) and long term incentives (LTI). The STI is paid in cash to eligible executives upon the achievement of financial and non-financial targets as determined by the Board. In addition, executives who are able to influence the generation of shareholder wealth and have a direct impact on the Group's performance are eligible to participate in the LTI Plan, known as the GDG Performance Rights Plan. A Performance Right confers on the holder an entitlement, upon vesting and exercise, to the value of a fully paid ordinary share in the Company which may be settled in the form of a share or in cash at the discretion of the Board. Performance rights vest and exercise for nil consideration on satisfaction of vesting conditions, subject to the Board's discretion to determine otherwise in certain circumstances.</p> <p>A Remuneration Report, which sets out information about the remuneration of the Company's directors and key management personnel for the financial year is included in the Directors' Report.</p>
8.3 Disclose, if it has an equity-based remuneration scheme, its policy on participants entering into transactions which limit the economic risk of participating in the scheme	<p>The Company's equity-based remuneration scheme, the GDG Performance Rights Plan, restricts participants from entering into any arrangements which would have the effect of limiting their exposure to risk in relation to Performance Rights (vested or unvested).</p> <p>A Remuneration Report, which sets out information about the remuneration of the Company's directors and key management personnel for the financial year is included in the Directors' Report.</p>