

Frequently Asked Questions – AMA ACT Transition to Branch of Federal AMA

1. What is being proposed?

AMA ACT members will vote on a proposal to wind up AMA ACT Ltd and transition to become the Australian Capital Territory Branch of the Australian Medical Association Limited (Federal AMA). This means AMA ACT would no longer operate as a separate incorporated company but as an official branch within the national AMA structure.

2. When is the vote taking place?

The Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be held on Wednesday, 3 December 2025 at 7:00 pm (AEDT) as a hybrid meeting—both at AMA, Level 1, 39 Brisbane Avenue, Barton, and via Microsoft Teams. Members will be able to vote in person, online during the meeting, or by proxy prior to the meeting.

3. Why is this change being considered?

Over several years, AMA ACT has faced growing financial, staffing, and compliance pressures. Despite strong advocacy and member engagement, maintaining an independent legal structure has become increasingly costly and time-consuming.

Transitioning to the Branch model allows AMA ACT to:

- Reduce administrative burden by moving finance, HR, compliance, and legal functions to Federal AMA.
- Strengthen advocacy through national coordination while maintaining a strong local voice.
- Protect member services and local identity.
- Improve support for doctor wellbeing through access to shared national expertise and resources.

4. What will stay the same for members?

- The AMA ACT name, brand, and presence will continue.
- Members will still have a local President, Council, and advocacy agenda focused on ACT-specific issues.
- Access to member benefits and local events.
- Workplace relations, policy, and doctor wellbeing advocacy will remain a local focus within the ACT Branch.

5. What will change?

- AMA ACT Ltd (the company) will be wound up.
- AMA ACT staff will become employees of Federal AMA, ensuring continuity of employment and conditions.
- The Napier Close investment property will be sold.
- Financial and legal compliance obligations (e.g. ASIC reporting, audits) will be handled nationally.
- Governance will be exercised through [By laws](#) approved by the Federal AMA Board, maintaining local autonomy within a national framework.

6. Will AMA ACT still have a local Council and President?

Yes. The new AMA ACT Branch will retain:

- A President elected by ACT members for a two-year term.
- An ACT Council of elected doctors representing different practice groups.
- A new position of Chair of the ACT Council, providing governance and succession support.
- A new opportunity to appoint an Independent Councillor with expertise in governance, law, or finance.

7. How will AMA ACT staff and programs be protected?

Federal AMA has agreed to:

- Offer all current AMA ACT staff employment on no less favourable terms.
- Retain an operational office and staff in the ACT at levels equivalent to those before transition.
- Maintain locally delivered advocacy and wellbeing programs for doctors practising in the ACT.

8. What about AMA ACT's assets and property?

The [Deed of Transfer](#) ensures that key contracts (particularly contracts that support publication of the Canberra doctor), intellectual property and other assets are transferred to Federal AMA. It also provides for any cash (including proceeds of the sale of the Napier Close property) to be transferred to Federal AMA by the liquidator after he is satisfied that all debts are paid. The [Deed of Transfer](#) requires Federal AMA to indemnify AMA ACT for any liabilities that are notified during this period.

Federal AMA will continue to maintain ACT operations and office arrangements within the Barton premises.

9. How does this affect membership fees or benefits?

There will be no change to membership fees or categories as a result of the vote. We aim to use your money more efficiently so that we can improve both member services and benefits, with access to enhanced national support (legal, media, policy, IT) and coordinated advocacy campaigns.

10. Will AMA ACT lose its local identity?

No. The new Branch will continue to operate as “AMA ACT”, with its own website, communications, and identity clearly tied to ACT members and issues. The [By laws](#) protect against any change to branding or identity without approval of ACT members at a Branch Meeting.

11. How was this proposal developed?

The proposal follows:

- A Board review of sustainability options.
- A member consultation process throughout 2025 including the AGM (May), forums (July), and a straw poll (August).
- Detailed due diligence and negotiation of transfer, employment, and governance terms with Federal AMA.

12. What happens if members vote “Yes”?

If at least 75% of members present and voting (in person or by proxy) support the transition:

- AMA ACT will ratify the [Deed of Transfer](#).
- The AMA ACT Branch will be established in accordance with the ACT Branch [By laws](#) approved by the Federal AMA Board.
- All AMA ACT assets, staff and key contracts will transfer to Federal AMA.
- A liquidator will oversee the voluntary winding up of AMA ACT Ltd.

13. What happens if members vote “No”?

AMA ACT would remain an independent company. However, the Board has noted that this would require significant cost-cutting, further fundraising, and increased governance risk, with limited ability to improve services or staff capacity.

14. Where can I read the supporting documents?

The **Deed of Transfer** and ACT Branch By laws **can be found [HERE](#)**.

15. Who can I contact for more information?

Members are encouraged to contact: Dr Kerrie Aust, President, AMA (ACT) Ltd — president@ama-act.com.au Peter Somerville, Chief Executive Officer, AMA ACT — ceo@ama-act.com.au