Professional development is the central focus of the South Australian Branch of HIMAA (HIMAA SA): the general meetings, targeted professional development activities, electronic communication and the HIMAA SA web page are some examples of the types of professional development opportunities provided to members.

The Branch organises four general meetings a year and an annual general meeting is held in the latter part of the year. The general meetings are an ideal opportunity for members to network face-to-face, exchange information and learn of HIMAA national developments. Detailed minutes are kept of each meeting and are distributed, benefiting those members who are unable to attend the meetings.

The appointed Professional Development Facilitator coordinates targeted professional development activities that are responsive to member needs. Member opinions are sought at general meetings to determine what professional development topics are of interest, the preferred timing of sessions, along with discussion of associated costs.

Generally, professional development activities take the form of information sessions or workshops. Some of the more recent activities include software demonstrations, an off-site storage solution presentation, rehabilitation facility tour, a human resource management workshop, a HIMAA competency standards workshop, and a career-planning workshop.

A feedback questionnaire is circulated at each professional development activity for all participants to complete. The results of the questionnaire are reported to members at the following general meeting. The feedback received is used by the Branch Executive to review the professional development program.

The professional development sessions are a tangible benefit of HIMAA membership, and sessions are provided free of charge to members. The small size of the South Australian Branch means that, at times, sessions are also made available to non-members for a nominal fee on a cost-recovery basis.

The South Australian Branch Executive would like to thank its members for supporting professional development initiatives and looks forward to continuing to provide interesting and relevant events into the future.

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