

Frequently Asked Questions: A guide for potential applicants for District Governor

1. What does the role entail?

Simply stated, the District Governor (DG) is the officer of Rotary International (RI) in the district, functioning under the general supervision of the RI Board of Directors. The Governor leads and supports clubs in the district by inspiring and motivating them and by ensuring continuity within the district. Some of the key duties of the role include the following:

- Supporting and strengthening clubs, and organising new clubs (where appropriate);
- Supporting the Rotary Foundation
- Planning for a District Conference
- Visiting clubs in the District
- Issuing a monthly newsletter
- Reporting to Rotary International
- Providing governance and leadership of District 9780; and
- Supporting the District leadership team and ensuring continuity in key positions.

2. Why would I want to do it?

In the role of District Governor you will see Rotary at its very best! There is nothing more inspiring than seeing first-hand all the wonderful ways that Rotarians and their clubs give back to their communities, and to communities beyond their own.

You will also meet some amazing people and make connections for a lifetime. Not just with other Rotarians in clubs within our District, but with other Governors, and past and future Governors from all around the world. You'll get to travel – around the District, to training events in Australia and New Zealand and a particular highlight – to the USA to Rotary's International Assembly.

In addition, you'll experience the most wonderful personal and professional development opportunity. You'll develop your communications and interpersonal skills, extend your leadership and governance skills, and a host of other skills as well – and you'll do it with a lot of support and encouragement.

3. Do I need any particular qualifications?

Rotary International identifies three key requirements or qualifications. You must:

- Be a member, other than an honorary member, in good standing in your club
- Have been a Rotarian for at least seven years on taking office as DG
- Have served as club president for a full term.

In addition, you'll need lots of energy and enthusiasm, a good dose of patience, and a willingness to serve our District and Rotary.

4. What are the direct financial costs involved?

Costs vary significantly from one Governor to the next, making it difficult to precisely determine the true costs of taking on the role. Past Governors of the District will be very happy to speak with you about the costs they incurred during their time as Governor.

To help with financial costs, the District Governor receives allowances from Rotary International and from District 9780. The size of the allowance varies from year to year, but as an indication, allowances payable to the Governor of D9780 in 2024 - 2025 are:

- Expense reimbursement from Rotary International roughly AUD \$25,000 -27,000 (varies from year to year)
- Allowance from District 9780 AUD \$7,000 (DG); \$6,000 (DGE), \$1,000 (DGN)

In addition to paying allowances, our District provides a laptop computer allowance in the Budget to the District Governor - Nominee.

The most significant cost areas for District Governors relate to the following:

- Travel and accommodation (as required) associated with club visits and attending club and district functions;
- Office expenses – e.g. stationery, printing, phone, internet
- Attendance at important zone training events (as Governor Nominee, Elect and Governor) – paid for by our District.

Whilst allowances are paid to the Governor, Governor-Elect and Governor-Nominee, there are some types of expenses which are not covered – like gifts, beverages, raffles and clothes. Allowances are also unlikely to cover all the costs associated with the role.

5. What is the time commitment?

Like the financial costs, the time costs vary from one individual to the next. However, there's no doubt the role is time-consuming.

The time commitment commences during the year as District Governor Nominee; it builds during the year as Governor-Elect and is most demanding during the year as Governor. The key activities which consume time are:

- Visiting clubs – especially in the year as governor
- Preparing for and participating in monthly board meetings and quarterly District Leadership Team and Finance Committee meetings
- Supporting your district leadership team
- Participating in key training events – both your own training, and the training of your club presidents.

As in your business and professional life, your ability to delegate, innovate, use technology and work efficiently will markedly affect the time you spend in the role.

6. Is there much travel involved?

Quite a bit. The major requirements for travel relate to visits to clubs, attendance at various district meetings and events, and travel to training activities both within and outside the District.

Again, travel requirements will vary from one Governor to the next. Some governors have reduced travel requirements by clustering club visits, while others have preferred to visit clubs individually. Increasingly, Governors are using technology to reduce some of the discretionary travel associated with the role.

7. Do I have to be retired?

Not at all. However, you will need to have some flexibility in your working hours, particularly to manage visits to clubs in the District – an important part of the DGs role.

8. Will I get training for the role?

You will receive plenty of support and assistance to help you succeed.

You'll attend annual training events with your counterparts from other Districts in Australia and New Zealand in each of your Governor-Nominee, Governor-Elect and Governor years. You'll receive ongoing support from Rotary International, including an opportunity to attend International Assembly in the USA in January of your year as Governor-Elect. In addition, you'll be asked to nominate a mentor from the ranks of past District Governors in our District. Your mentor will provide ongoing and unobtrusive support and encouragement.

9. What do I need to do to apply?

You need to do the following:

1. Ask your club to nominate you. Ideally, your club will pass a resolution of support – with words to the effect of *"It is resolved to nominate Past President Sxxx Brown to serve as District Governor in 2024-2025 "* and to forward his/her name to the Chair of the Nominating Committee for consideration and interview by the Nominating Committee for District Governor.
2. Ensure your club submits your nomination using the Official D9780 Governor Nominee Candidate Form before the closing date. Details for lodging the form are clearly identified on that form.
3. It should be noted that RI Bylaws prohibit any effort by a candidate, a candidate's supporter, or any Rotarian to influence the selection process in a positive or negative manner, including campaigning or canvassing.

10. Regionalisation

RI is currently in the process of reviewing District structures worldwide with a pilot program known as Regionalisation currently under consideration for Zone 8, of which our District is a part.

[Use this link to the Zone 8 Rotary Regionalisation pilot project website](#) for more details. You should consider how this program may impact the duties of District Governor and your interest in the role.

11. What will happen next?

If you meet the basic qualifications for the role, you will be invited to attend an interview with the Nominating Committee. The interview process will be similar to that used in business and professional life. The Nominating Committee shall reach a decision on the selected candidate. It should be noted that if no candidate satisfies the Nominating Committee, a further search for a suitable candidate may be conducted. Shortly after interview you will be advised of the outcome, usually by the District Governor.

12. Where can I go for more information?

You can get information from a range of sources:

- Chair of the District 9870 DG Nominating Committee PDG Ray Herbert

(Ph: 0407 785 633; email : herbert.r@telstra.com)

- Rotary's Manual of Procedure and Code of Policies – a 'must-read', providing useful information about the role.
- The current District Governor John Clue – and any of the past Governors in our District.

13. If I'm selected, what next?

You'll commence one of the most exciting and rewarding chapters of your life.

At the commencement of the new Rotary year, you'll join the District 9780 Board of Management as Governor-Nominee; you'll attend the Rotary Zone Institute, including the pre-Institute training program in September 2022 (to be confirmed), where you'll learn so much more about the role - alongside others who are commencing the journey with you. From that point on, you'll start to prepare yourself, really get to know our clubs, and select your team – ready to lead our District as Governor in 2024-2025.