

Board director nomination candidate statement:

I am an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker, with over 30 years' experience in core social work areas across the public and not for profit sectors. For the past 10 years I have focused on therapeutic work with people experiencing mental ill health and complex trauma, victim survivors and users of family violence. I have over 20 years' experience facilitating education and training programs at TAFE, University, corporate, health and community sectors. I am currently employed in a regional public mental health service, as a specialist family violence advisor, where I focus on systemic change and a social model of mental health.



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As a mature aged student, I completed an honours degree in psychology and went on to complete the qualifying Master of Social Work, as I found my values and professional ethical practice aligned with the social work profession's values, ethical code and trauma informed practice framework.

I have experience in working with diverse cultures and international development, and endeavour to bring an intersectional lens to my work. I have lived and worked in the UK, Thailand, Indonesia and whilst in Vietnam was working with victim survivors of sex trafficking, supporting recovery and skills development. Through both my career and voluntary work, I have provided leadership in community and educational settings, mentoring and supervising staff, students and social work graduates, and clinical supervision.

My interest in ethics and professional integrity led to sitting on Federation University's Human Research Ethics Committee for 4 years, and volunteering on various community sector, health and AASW committees, including, the Grampians Region Social Work practice group, VIC Mental Health Practice group of which I currently convene. I co-convened the Ethical Dilemmas in Mental Health Social Work for 2 years, and currently hold the VIC Branch Management Committee Vice-President role.

From childhood experiences of disadvantage, I understand the importance of advocating for human rights and social justice. I am grateful to those who have fought and continue to fight for equity and social justice, as their actions and determination changed the system and afforded me opportunities that have supported my journey in education, employment and acceptance of my neurodiversity.

We need a strong social justice and human rights voice on issues that effect Australian's quality of life. I believe the social work profession is best placed to advocate, empower and influence the evolution to a compassionate, respectful and just society. My intention for nominating to the AASW Board is to serve the social work community and work with all to build the social work profession into the future.

If elected to the role of director on the AASW board, I will work to:

- maintain organisational transparency and accountability, by promoting a member driven association, focused on a member engagement and responsiveness at the local, state/territory and national level,
- increase social work profile across the service sector, with a focus on advocacy and policy in key areas to promote social inclusion, social justice and human rights,
- support strong educational partnerships to build robust quality education that encourages the unique social work professional identity and build graduates' capacity and capability in a complex evolving societal landscape,

- develop industry and sector partnerships that focus on equity, safety and wellbeing, and social workers' work/life balance to meet long-term workforce labour demands
- review the current registration strategy to identify and address issues to support a registration process that enhances the social work profession's values and identity.