

It has been my absolute honour to have been a Director of the AASW board for two terms.

I am seeking your support for re-election for a final term to continue to deliver for our members. I bring a considered, thoughtful and balanced approach to my responsibilities as a Director, act with integrity and always in the best interests of the Association and membership as a whole. A Board Director has very clear fiduciary and legal responsibilities under the Corporations Act and the ACNC Governance Standards; understanding and acting in accordance with these is critical. I have demonstrated my commitment to upholding my responsibilities with integrity through my substantial personal investment in ongoing professional development through the AICD and my personal supervision.

The landscape of social work has changed substantially from when I graduated and continues to change as we meet contemporary challenges and innovations. This is situated in a context of neo-liberalism and associated increasing social disadvantage and conflict. A strong professional association is key to supporting ALL our members, advocating with the highest levels of government with regards to social policy and ensuring ethical and high-quality service provision. This has been our focus.

As a self-regulating profession, the AASW has specific responsibilities in terms of setting the standards for education, practice and ethics. The AASW Board is responsible for ensuring appropriate governance of all these areas, which we have invested heavily in. As current Chair of the Professional Regulations Committee I am acutely aware of the importance of high standards to ensure quality of ethical practice.

During my time on the Board, I have had the privilege to work with a dedicated and highly skilled leadership team and their staff, to deliver on our strategic plan which has the vision of wellbeing and social justice, and mission of empowering social workers to make a difference. That is what social work is about after all, making a difference to achieve social justice within our society. I am proud of what we have achieved thus far:

- ✓ Investing in our IT systems to create greater efficiencies and member satisfaction.
- ✓ Investing in high quality Education, Marketing and Communications to achieve our strategic goals. This includes high quality CPD offerings (winning several awards) and increased focus on our communications strategies with decision-makers.
- ✓ Continued increase in membership numbers – we have the highest number of members in our history at 17,699. There is strength in numbers when it comes to lobbying for policy change.
- ✓ Strong financial leadership resulting in a strong balance sheet with \$2.1m in equity, recognising this has come off a dedicated period of investing in our systems, processes and staffing to meet members needs.
- ✓ Embedding a dedicated Torres Strait Islander Director position, key to our commitment to decolonising social work.
- ✓ Robust education and accreditation standards (ASWEAS), aligned with international best practice in higher education regulation and accreditation, and based on significant stakeholder feedback. Students invest considerable time and money to complete a social work degree, they/you deserve to know that when you graduate you are well equipped to take on the challenges of this complex area of work. Our ASWEAS helps deliver this as we advocate for quality education and placement opportunities for all students.
- ✓ Diversification of income streams to ensure our sustainability, which has allowed us to invest in greater training and support opportunities for members, and associated systems and processes.
- ✓ Continued campaign for greater pay parity and recognition for social workers. Social work is now formally recognised by **seven** of the nation's private health insurance providers.

- ✓ Our CEO and her leadership team have developed deep relationships with all levels of Government, which is key to advocacy efforts and policy development.
- ✓ Continued focus on national registration
- ✓ Strengthened our ethics review and complaints management processes, ensuring greater rigour and consistency.

I realise there is more to do to deliver the services you, our members want and deserve. There is more to do as we advocate for social justice and the rights of people in the face of multiple injustices and oppression. I respectfully ask for your support to continue in my role as Director as we continue to work on the key issues and in particular registration, which has been a long-term goal of the Association. My focus is always on the best interests of our profession, our Association and thus our members and society - not hindered by ego or self-interest.

Thank you