

Jenny Rose –

I am a passionate advocate for social work and for ensuring that all members of the AASW are represented by their Board. Social workers work in diverse practice settings and communities across Australia, and it is vital that the Association creates genuine spaces for all voices to be heard. I believe that the AASW has a responsibility to both lead and reflect the profession, and I am committed to playing an active role in shaping a future that is ethical, inclusive, and strategically focused.

Professional Integrity and Governance Experience

I bring detailed knowledge of governance responsibilities, having completed formal governance qualifications. I fully understand the time, work, and commitment required of a Director. I was asked to fill a casual vacancy on the AASW Board in July 2025 and previously served as a Director from 2017–2021. In that role, I chaired the Standards and Assessment Committee, leading changes including broadening ASWEAS language requirements from IELTS only to include equivalent assessments. I support continuing work to review English language requirements for membership, including exploring alignment with the English language tests accepted by AHPRA.

My contribution is informed and reliable. I maintain a strong attendance record, prepare thoroughly, and contribute thoughtfully to discussions. I understand the role of a Director is one of representing members, considering diverse viewpoints, and advocating respectfully for our profession.

Professional Background

My work has included government, non-government, and private practice as a clinician, manager, supervisor, and educator. In my private practice, I am also part of ASWEAS accreditation panels, engaging with social workers and students from diverse education providers. This ensures that I remain connected to the breadth of issues shaping our profession nationally.

I work as the Head of Social Work at a health service in regional NSW. Previously I was a Student Educator and Senior Social Worker at a paediatric hospital, where my clinical work focused on trauma, crisis, and bereavement—practice areas that require compassion, critical thinking, and strong professional ethics.

Advocacy, Representation, and Leadership

I recognise the importance of collective advocacy. My role as union delegate with the Health Services Union has seen me represent social workers in award reform processes, ensuring that our profession's voice is heard in industrial negotiations. Within the AASW, I have served as NSW Branch President and as a Branch Management Committee member. I worked to strengthen regional networks and ensure that members outside metropolitan centres were better supported. I have seen firsthand the impact of the advocacy, social policy, and professional development opportunities generated at Branch level, particularly through practice groups.

I volunteered for several years as a mentor in the AASW mentoring program. Supporting early-career social workers is essential, and I value the reciprocal learning that mentoring offers. Contributing to the development of the next generation of social workers is one way I seek to strengthen the profession's future.

Cultural Humility and Inclusive Practice

Cultural humility is central to my practice and philosophy. I actively seek cultural advice and reflect on how to ensure decision-making processes are inclusive and respectful. I strongly support the inclusion of First Nations representatives on the AASW Board as part of the ongoing decolonisation of our professional practice. I believe that true representation requires us to continually evolve our structures and practices to reflect the diversity of our members and the communities we serve.

Strategic Focus and Collaboration

My training and practical leadership experience enable me to focus strategically while also understanding operational realities. I approach issues with critical reflection, drawing on decades of experience and the support of skilled supervisors and peers. My communication skills, developed through leadership, teaching, and union advocacy, allow me to engage constructively with colleagues and stakeholders. I am committed to collaboration and representing the Association with professionalism, integrity, and respect.

Balanced Perspective

Outside of my professional life, I value balance and creativity. Gardening, despite the challenges of frosts, remains a passion. I am an avid reader and I enjoy crocheting (including some guerilla yarn bombing), swimming, and camping. These pursuits keep me grounded and remind me of the importance of wellbeing and connection.

Conclusion

As we head into celebrating 80years, the AASW is at an important point in its development. We have opportunities to strengthen our profession's influence and ensure members feel represented, supported, and valued and that the AASW reflects the values of integrity, inclusivity, and professional excellence. It would be a privilege to continue contributing to the Board and to help shape the future of social work in Australia.