

Nomination Statement – Board Member AASW

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It has been an honour to serve as the National President of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) over the past twelve months. During this time, I have witnessed both the challenges and the strengths of our profession, and I have been deeply encouraged by the resilience, creativity, and commitment of our members. With the support of the membership, I would like to continue in this role for the next three years, to help guide the Association through a period of significant and important systemic change.

My commitment over the past 6 years, has been to ensure that the AASW remains a strong, credible, ethical and member-focused organisation. I believe this is best achieved by upholding the highest standards of good governance, integrity, honesty, collaboration, and compassionate leadership. These values are not only central to our profession as social workers, they are also essential to the health and sustainability of our Association.

Good governance and member engagement has been a priority throughout my tenure as a director and my first year as President. I have worked closely with the Board and committees to ensure decisions are made transparently, ethically and responsibly, and always with the best interests of members in mind. A strong governance framework provides the foundation for everything else we do—it builds trust, creates stability, and allows the Association to focus on what matters most: supporting our members and advancing the profession of social work.

Integrity and honesty are the cornerstones of leadership. In representing you, I have sought to act with openness, accountability, and respect. Members expect and deserve honesty from their leaders, particularly when difficult choices must be made. I see integrity not only as a personal commitment but as a collective responsibility—ensuring that the AASW continues to reflect the ethical values of our profession in all its actions and advocacy. Acting with integrity also means being accountable – every day - and ensuring that both as an individual and a professional that the values and ethics of our profession guide all actions.

Trust, compassion and collaboration are significant values that underpin my practice. Our Board and our Association is at its best when it draws on and values the voices, knowledge, and experiences of its members. Over the past year, I have seen the strength that comes from working together—whether through branch activities, committees, advisory groups, or professional networks. I am committed to deepening this spirit of collaboration, ensuring that members feel heard, valued, and able to actively shape the future of our Association.

The coming three years will bring some of the most significant reforms the AASW has undertaken in many decades. These systemic changes are an opportunity to modernise the way we operate, strengthen the voice of social work in Australia, and position the Association to better meet the needs of our members. During my six years as a Director, and 12 months as National President, the Association has achieved substantial progress: implementing major Constitutional reforms, strengthening audit and compliance processes for credentialing (including Mental Health Social Workers), establishing an independent Accreditation Council, securing registration of the AASW as a charity with benefits for members, hosting a highly successful International Social Work Conference, driving strong membership growth,

delivering consistent financial surpluses, and leading national advocacy for professional registration.

Change is never without challenge, but with careful planning, open communication, compassion, and principled leadership, I believe the Association can navigate this period successfully.

My vision as a Director of the AASW is to provide stable and principled leadership throughout this process. I want to see an Association that is transparent and accountable in its governance, steadfast in its integrity, united in its membership, and confident in its National Voice. By staying true to our values, we can ensure that the AASW not only adapts to change but thrives through it—emerging stronger, more cohesive, and more influential on behalf of our profession.

I seek your support to continue in the role of Director for the next three years, to represent you with honesty, integrity, and care, and to lead our Association through this important period of growth and transformation.

Together, we can build a future for the AASW that reflects the best of who we are as social workers: principled, collaborative, and committed to making a difference.