

VMIAC Committee of Management

Nominee for Chairperson

James Horton



In submitting my nomination for Chairperson, I believe I bring four things to the board and VMIAC.

As a current and former committee member, Treasurer, and Deputy Chair, I bring an understanding of VMIAC's journey, how it has arrived at this point in time as an organisation, and belief in its promise.

As a professional, I bring more years than I'd like to admit to in building and developing businesses for others and myself.

As a citizen, I bring a belief in the vital role of civil society - not-for-profits (like VMIAC), NGO's, academia, community groups - to good government through activism and advocacy. In that regard, I have been active at a national level in relation to open government, privacy and data ethics.

As a person, I bring my consumer lived experience, including time as a consumer representative on the Mental Health Ministerial Advisory Committee, and a desire to represent VMIAC's voice at a crucial time for the mental health sector and consumers.

Nominee for Treasurer

Ali Pain



I have been a member of the Committee of Management (COM) since 2015. In the past year I have been in the role of Treasurer. I chair the Finance and Risk Management sub-committee (FaRMs) of the COM.

The role requires close oversight of VMIAC's income and budget allocations across different programs. FaRMS meets monthly, to review the income and expenditure, balance sheet, and cash flow statement. As Treasurer I table a report with the COM as well as the financial statements and any policies at the COM monthly meetings. The FaRMS committee ensures VMIAC can meet all financial obligations such as payroll, long service leave and superannuation.

A bit about me:

I have been working in the consumer workforce since 2010, as a consumer consultant until 2016 with cohealth, and since then as a consumer and carer engagement officer at the Mental Health Tribunal.

Nominees for Ordinary positions – 5 positions available

David Cohan



Born 1958. 3 children (all now adult) successful in their education and occupations. Good relationships with each other and with me. Degree in Electrical Engineering, Monash. Worked 1981 – 1999 for engineering co. Significant involvement with quality assurance and improvement. Various clubs and groups over the years including committee experience. Long-time supporter and carer for another person with significant need for mental health care. I have had 3 admissions to psych, all involuntary 2002, 2003, 2006. All unjustified. Disgusted with system's response to my complaints. System Improved with introduction of MHCC, but still a long way to go. Been member of VMIAC since about 2008. Studied the Mental Health Act and other documentation. Have a general interest in legal and liberty issues. Member of Liberty Victoria and

Amnesty International Australia. With my analytical and systematic approach to issues, I have skills that can help clarify problems and possible paths of improvement.

Matthew Jackman



Matthew received Australia's National Mental Health Advocate award by the Mental Health Foundation of Australia in 2020. Matthew is the Founder/CEO of The Australian Centre for Living Experience, a peer run centre for living experience persons seeking alternative peer approaches. They survive/live with Bipolar Affective Disorder and Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder ('as defined' by DSM/Psychiatry), is a sibling caregiver/supporter to their younger brother and sister who live with enduring psychosocial diverse abilities, and has lost their mother to suicide, and consequently grandparents due to stigma/discrimination.

Matthew represented the Western Pacific Region on the Global Mental Health Peer Network and was a Global Shaper with the World Economic Forum. They consult and advise the World Health Organisation on living experience

perspective and advise the Lancet Commission Psychosis Working Group.

Matthew is a Mad Intersectionality Academic and teaches, researchers and curriculum designs from a critical disability, disability justice and intersectional framework threading Mad Informed perspective.

Simon Katterl



I have served on the VMIAC Committee of Management from 2020-21 and have participated in several advisory committees, including the Advisory Council (MHCC, 2016-2019, and am undertaking a Masters in Regulation and Governance at the Australian National University.

I will bring my lived, consumer workforce and professional experience to the Committee of Management. My training and work in human rights, regulation and oversight will continue to assist VMIAC to ensure that the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission is established to perform better than previous bodies. My experience in research at Griffith University, the University of Melbourne and RMIT will support VMIAC's ongoing research and advocacy. My broad connections as a consultant will help VMIAC increase its reach as it tries to transform the mental health system.

Nicole Lee



Nicole Lee is a family violence survivor and passionate advocate. After suffering a decade of abuse at the hands of her former husband, Nicole now uses her lived-experience of family violence to speak out for those who don't yet have a voice. Nicole, who also uses a wheelchair, focuses on family violence perpetrated against those who have a disability, or who depend on carers or family members for support. She has played a major role in shaping how Victoria responds, and works to prevent, family violence. She has had extensive experience on boards and has a strong history of governance and fundraising, serving as a member of the Victim

Survivors' Advisory Council (2016-2019).

Nicole gave evidence at Victoria's Royal Commission into Family Violence in 2015 during their hearings in relation to the mental health and family violence. Her evidence was in relation to her own lived experience of family and sexual violence as a disabled woman with an emphasis on her experience, and failings of the mental health sector.

Lyn Macleod



Lyn is a 49-year-old English married woman with a blended family of 5 adult children. She trained as a paediatric nurse in the UK 26 years ago and moved to Australia 15 years ago. She has a diverse lived experience of mental health and uses humour as one of her many coping strategies. Lyn is currently exploring diagnoses with a psychiatrist for the first time, previously being diagnosed and managed by her G.P and psychologists.

Lyn is a passionate advocate for services to be equitable and accessible to all and is strongly invested in the ongoing development of the lived experienced workforce.

Lyn enjoys the spending time walking the beaches of the Mornington Peninsula with her 3 dogs and running which she believes are both essential in maintaining her mental health.

Emily Unity



Emily Unity (she/they) is a lived experience consultant, peer worker, and advocate. They are also a LGBTIQ+, culturally diverse, and neurodiverse young person of lived and living experience. Emily has a diverse portfolio within the mental health sector, particularly focusing on lived and living experience. They believe that diverse lived experience is integral to every project and system. In all their roles, they have advocated for the importance of diverse lived experiences in a variety of contexts including but not limited to policy, service development, system design, mental health promotion and community awareness, quality assurance and risk, and research and feasibility. Within these areas, they have also identified, facilitated, developed, and implemented new opportunities for not just lived experience participation and codesign, but lived experience leadership. Emily endeavours to use both

their professional and lived experience to help design a world for all people, regardless of background, identity, or neurodiversity.

Ian Watts



Thank you for considering my nomination. Let me tell you a little about my background.

In 2020, I was a member of the Consumer Foundations Working Group which was formed to inform the Royal Commission into Victoria's Mental Health System.

Between mid-2012 and mid-2015 I chaired, the National Consumer Reference Group, for the National Mental Health Consumer Organisation Establishment Project.

In 1995 I became a Member, then Secretary, of the Board of Directors, of the Queensland AIDS Council.

Between 1997 and 2001 I was a Member of the Management Committee of St Luke's Nursing Service – state-wide home nursing service in Queensland.

For four years after 2012, I was a Board member of the Australian Primary Healthcare Nurses Association. I completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course in 2015. I was a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors for 2 years.

I have also been Associate Investigator and Consumer Representative, in an application for a NHMRC Centres of Research Excellence grant in primary care mental health. I identify as a gay man and am an older Australian (63 years old).