



Committee of Management Nominations 2023

Chair Nominee

Tricia Szirom

1. Interest & skills

I am passionate about the advocacy of mental health lived experience, that's why I love VMIAC, I have been on VMIAC COM for last two years. I can bring Governance experience, Community engagement experience, digital and social media experience.

2. Governance experience

I have been on a number of community and government boards and committees over the years and have a strong understanding of the importance of good governance including financial accountability and risk management. In 1995 and 2000 I represent Australia at UN meetings on the rights of women. I have actually run training on governance in child and family welfare, bush nursing centres and family violence organisations.

3. Diverse & intersectional perspectives

I am a very ordinary Celtic/anglo woman however as a lesbian and single mother I have been at the forefront of a number of campaigns and fights for human rights including reproductive rights, family violence, child welfare, gay rights, homelessness and the YES campaign.



Ordinary Member Nominees (4 positions available)

Anubhav (Anu) Dhingra

1. Interest & skills

As a person with lived experience of OCD, trauma and suicidality I'm committed to ensure VMIAC continues to advocate and be a voice for those suffering in silence.

2. Governance experience

I've been on the Board of Anxiety Recovery Centre Victoria (ARCVIC) for 3 years and have been re-elected as secretary for a 2nd term for 2023/24.

3. Diverse & intersectional perspectives

I'm LGBTQIA+, person of colour and an immigrant. I was born in New Delhi, India. Identify as a gay man and have brown skin.



James Bell

1. Interest & skills

- I have grown my knowledge of contemporary consumer issues and am actively working on reforms, implementing recommendations of the Victorian Royal Commission into Mental Health in my role as Consumer Consultant at Barwon Health.
- In addition to an interest and expertise in MHAOD advocacy, I have an undergraduate business degree, worked in financial services and so also have an interest in operations, finance and risk management.
- I have undertaken training in governance and am on two regional governance committees.
- I volunteer at a grassroots level supporting community mutual help peer support groups with an NGO.



2. Governance experience

- a) May 2022, Completed VMIAC Consumers Leading in Governance Training
- b) October 2022/Inception - Current, Governance Group Lived Experience Member (Consumer), Greater Geelong and Queenscliffe Mental Health and Wellbeing Local.
 - i. The GGQ Local is a partnership between Barwon Health, Wathaurong Aboriginal Co-operative, ermha365 and Wellways.
- c) September 2021- Current, Barwon Health Community Advisory Committee - Consumer Advisor
 - i. Provide mental health consumer perspectives on a sub-committee of the Barwon Health board
 - ii. barwonhealth.org.au/about-us/community-advisory-committee

3. Diverse & intersectional perspectives

As a country born, heteronormative male millennial from a middle class upbringing, I do not claim a direct connection with intersectional or diverse perspectives. As an employee I have built rewarding professional relationships with people from diverse backgrounds. As a mental health consumer with a LE of incarceration and with a highly stigmatised diagnosis, I offer my allyship, solidarity and mutual respect with other groups that have also experienced marginalisation, prejudice, oppression and human rights abuses including First Nations, asylum seeker/refugee/migrants, people of colour, and LGBTQIA+ communities.

Katie Larsen

1. Interest & skills

I am very interested to join the VMIAC Committee on a more official basis, after participating as a casual member since June this year.

I believe in the role of consumer peaks to drive the reform and advocacy agenda for mental health. I am enthusiastic to support VMIAC in achieving this ongoing, particularly relating to human rights and justice.

I am currently in an Executive lived expertise role with a major community mental health organisation. I will draw from my extensive professional experience and personal drive to support the work of VMIAC.

2. Governance experience

I have previously sat on the Women's Football Club Committee where I completed the role of Secretary (12 months) and ordinary member (two years).



In my senior lived experience role with a community mental health organisation, I participate in a range of internal, Board related and external governance activities across a range of Committees.

I have been a casual member of the VMIAC Committee since June 2023.

3. Diverse & intersectional perspectives

I have an extensive work history in developing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives across governance, leadership, service development and service design. I am undertaking a PhD exploring intersectional approaches to leadership and decision-making in mainstream mental health services. I identify as queer and draw from this experience, in combination with my lived experience of mental distress to shape my worldview.

Ross Hudson

1. Interest & skills

Whilst not experiencing Hospital Admission associated with my mental health, for a prolonged period I've directly experienced the never-ending shortfalls, failings and difficulties trying to access services through support agencies and the Public Health system.

I'm a strong self advocate making regular representations directly to Ministerial Offices, MPs, Executive bureaucrats and Management of service providers (whether in writing or orally) to challenge underperformance or ineffective processes. This includes VMIAC

I've a keen eye and radar for failing communications from these types of decision makers and authority, as well as process inefficiency or ineffectiveness. I seek higher standards of service delivery

2. Governance experience

For over 11yrs I developed, prepared and delivered technical, supervisory and management training in a major Federal Public Service Department. Over 9 of those were in management roles in the Training and Staff Development area

Part of my training experience was involved in delivering EEO, Access & Equity, Privacy and Administrative Law training targeted from Induction level to Executive Management - and public seminars

My last 2yrs of employment there was managing an Outreach and Public Relations unit, which included Aboriginal Liaison Staff and Migrant Liaison functions.

I've been self employed since in customer focussed endeavours for 28 yrs.

3. Diverse & intersectional perspectives

My work in the public service and since has provided me with broad and diverse experiences dealing with communities and people that are indicative of our evolving society (and are included or emerging in our consumer profile)

I am open, accepting, respectful and interested in other people - and what anyone has to share; from which I can learn and develop my own self awareness and that for others. I believe that I model interest, tolerance, balance, encouragement and consistent willing support to respect and stand up for the rights of others, and particularly those less able to.



Simon Katterl

1. Interest & skills

As someone who is passionate about promoting human rights, I have developed various skills that I hope are helpful to the consumer movement, including:

- An in-depth understanding of human rights
- Governance and regulation
- Consumer workforce development and rights
- Organisational change.

I also do this stridently in solidarity with consumers who have been more harmed by the system than myself.

2. Governance experience

My governance experience includes:

- Providing training to participants in the VMIAC Consumers Leading in Governance course
- Writing academically and studying regulation and governance
- Previously being a Committee of Management member and the Chair of the Human Rights and Ethics Subcommittee.

3. Diverse & intersectional perspectives

I have lived experience of trauma and accessing public community mental health services. Therefore I support if there are others who have different and valuable lived experiences than myself.

