

MDAS Annual General Meeting 2020

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Personal Statements*

Helena Baxter - Mildura

I believe I would be a great director because of the work ethic in education I have worked in education for the past 32 years and I have a good relationship with the community and a great with a various education sector in the region.

Mark Bland - Mildura

I am a proud Ngarrindjeri man from SA where I worked as a manager in wine industries for 25 years with up to 100 staff at times. I have good people skills, management skills, understanding of budgets and Human resources. I have lived and worked in Mildura for half my life and I call it my home now. I am currently working as the Sheriff Aboriginal Liaison Officer for the last 9 years based in Mildura but cover the whole Loddon Mallee. I sit on the Koori Court as an elder. I just want to have an input of how Mildura ACCO's are looking after the Aboriginal Community. I would like to share some of my skills with the community.

Rita Chandra - Mildura

The reason why I have decided to come on this journey is for change. I have been working with state and federal governments around the concerns surrounding MDAS for a number of years and I still continue to work hard very day as part of the Mallee Community Leadership Group established by government to strengthen the governance of MDAS. This journey is not about me but all the mob in the Mallee who have felt that they don't have a voice in decision making for their communities about the services being delivered by MDAS. What I would bring to the MDAS board is a fresh face, a different way of thinking and a better understanding of community needs. Working with government and community for the best possible outcome at the end of the day for all our people in the Mallee. This pretty much sums up who I am as a person. This is not about me or you, it's about us as a community and people working together. So, for myself being on the board, if chosen, I will work together with other directors always having the community and our people as to the reason why I am here.

MDAS Annual General Meeting 2020

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Personal Statements*

Deb Chaplin - Swan Hill

My community have expressed faith in me, I want to give them a voice so they can be heard. I believe I'm up for the challenge. I have lived in the Mallee all my life. I joined the Board in August 2019 and in more recent times have been acting Chair of MDAS. As Chair, I started the MDAS reform project – bringing in VACCHO and running the successful membership drive to return MDAS to community control. I am excited about the opportunity to keep working on these reforms and seek your vote.

Vicki Clark - Swan Hill

As a professional Aboriginal woman, I believe in self-determination that empowers Aboriginal organisations and communities to strive for a fair and just service into homes for all families. My appointments through my professional career are diverse and ones which has held high responsibility and consideration of many complex needs from a community perspective. My understanding of governance and board structures is that professional competencies are required for appointments and due diligence processes are critical for fair and transparent operations of which I'm accustomed to. I believe this longstanding commitment for community control and experience places me in a strong position to assist with bringing the voices, unique cultural aspirations to any board table. Always with the highest respect of Elders, young mums, single father's, staff, traditional owner's and local community members. I bring to MDAS board no conflict of interest just pure professional requirements and the spirit of local community.

MDAS Annual General Meeting 2020

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Personal Statements*

Steven Hancock - Kerang

My name is Steven Hancock I have lived in Kerang for 42 years I am an Elder in our community. My mob come from Murramarang out country runs from Nowra to Batman's Bay along the far South coast of NSW. My Great grandfather was an elder leader in his time. The police would come down from Sydney to take the children (stolen generation) away but he would take the families and the children into the mountains to keep the families and keep his community safe. I have the blood of my grandfather to look after our people I will be a strong representative in the Mallee, and Kerang I have a strong connection with mainstream and networks to get the most for our community. I had lots of fun over the years interacting with our community in Kerang, calling bingo, going to cooking classes helping with xmas parties for the elders and the children. To be able to have them back to our center to enjoying a cuppa and a yarn. I am here again to bring all these things and anything else back, and work hard to get those things that our community need and life back for our people in this community. I will be a voice in our community in Kerang and I will fight to get all we need for our community. The reasoning being is, I have 3 children/ 6 grandchildren/ 4 great grandchildren that will grow up here and give me the strength to look after the Mallee and Kerang communities.

MDAS Annual General Meeting 2020

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Personal Statements*

Jemmes Handy - Mildura

I am applying to become a board member because I have lived and worked in the Mallee area for most of my life and have an extensive knowledge of this area and my community members and any problems or issues they may have and I enjoy being involved with my community and their activities that are always held every year. I am known through the community and state-wide as a respected elder and I have sat on many committees that involve my people's health, wellbeing and justice concerns, so I am very passionate about my community. Through my knowledge and involvement in the community, I believe that I would be a great candidate to be on the board of the Mallee District Aboriginal Service.

Derik Jones - Mildura

I am from the NSW Barkindji mob, have grown up in Mildura and surrounds. I have working within Aboriginal health/Community sector for approx. 20 years. I have a sound knowledge about the issues within our Community such as Mental Health, Drug/alcohol, Family Violence, Homelessness and Child Protection and Justice issues we face in community. I am passionate about the issues that our community face as I can empathise because I have encountered many of the same issues my community face such as trans generational trauma, loss of family members, extended family members who have had contact with Child Protection or the Justice system etc. I advocate for my people in both my work role and personal life and feel strongly and passionately about issues facing our community. I would like to have the opportunity to be part of the current changes happening at MDAS and to support the Organisation be strong in Governance and accountability to Community and the funding bodies. To be a voice to all, not just a few.

MDAS Annual General Meeting 2020

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Personal Statements*

Peter Matsumoto - Mildura

I have nominated to be part of an organisation that has the facilities to provide quality support to community. I have resided in the area for approximately 9 years and has become aware the issues and concerns identified by community through the organisations I have work in. Due to the mental health positions I have held in I have been able to develop significant professional relationships with multiple organisations within the district and both state and interstate. I have become known within the community and been able to develop significant rapport with community members through my work and the support I have provided. I am motivated and passionate about supporting my community to be able to receive the best possible support to maintain both physical and mental wellbeing. I can provide an impartial view to issues to achieve the best outcome to issues. I have developed organisation skills to be able to prioritise and address issues as required. I have good communication skills and am able to engage with community and with professional organisations at all levels. I work well within a team and am able to support colleagues as required. I understand the importance of a multidisciplinary team and the value that varied skills and knowledge can provide to a team's successful decision making. I am able to follow instructions and work as a team member or step up when required to fill higher duties. Due to the varied skills and knowledge I have obtained through my work and training I find that I am able to resolve most issues to obtain beneficial outcomes for all involved. I am aware of my own weaknesses and am comfortable with seeking the support and advise of others at these times.

MDAS Annual General Meeting 2020

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Personal Statements*

Mark Morgan - Mildura

I have worked in community roles in Mildura for the past 22 years. I have a strong desire to see that the community gets the highest of service they possibly can. I bring my community connection, culturally, respectfully and community dynamics knowledge to the Board. I have extensive experience in Aboriginal Torre Strait Islander Health, I am a trained Mediator. Have very good skills in Brokering and advocating. I find myself to be very trustworthy, honest and true to responding to community needs. I am very well accepted in the Mallee as a reliable and dedicated worker towards our community causes.

Damien Murray - Kerang

My name is Damien Murray and I have lived in Kerang for approx. 43 years. I have represented Kerang in different pursuits like Football, Cricket, Golf, Lawn Bowls and Basketball among other things. One thing I am passionate about is the welfare of the Kerang Aboriginal Community. I was employed at the Kerang office of MDAS before moving onto Swan Hill. This was after a tenure of 10yrs as Koori Educator. As you can see, most of my working life has been serving the Kerang and Swan Hill Communities. I have served on different committees as follows:

- Wandella Football Club (Vice President)
- Kerang/Swan Hill MDAS Service Delivery Committee
- Kerang LAECG
- Southern Mallee Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Group
- Kerang Golf Bowling Club Mens Committee
- Various Indigenous Advisory groups

I hope to be voted onto the Board so as to help with the next phase of MDAS growth and also provide Kerang with a voice of reason. If elected, I promise to have the whole of the Mallee District at heart with transparency and honesty. Currently I am employed at Northern District Community Health as the Indigenous Children's Program. I am an easily approachable person who holds Koori Welfare in the highest esteem as demonstrated with my past employment.

MDAS Annual General Meeting 2020

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Personal Statements*

Jenene Murray - Mildura

I am a proud Wiradjuri woman from central NSW and have worked and lived in this community for 26 years. I have been a previous board member of Mallee District Aboriginal Services/ MDAS LTD and believe I displayed the skills and attributes it takes to be a valued member of the organisation. I have an extensive working knowledge of the Education sector and have been employed in this field for over 25 years. I am currently employed as the Koorie Education Coordinator for the NWRV Mallee area. I have a developed knowledge of the Governance process and policy procedures and am confident that this knowledge and understanding gives me a greater insight into the services and support our organisation can deliver or implement in our community moving forward and beyond. I am a member of the following Aboriginal networks in the community AAC, LAN, LAECG and LAJAC.

Kathy Marie Potter - Mildura

The reason why I am applying to be a Director on the Board of Directors for MDAS is that I feel that I can make a difference not only for the organisation but for the Community. I am very passionate about making sure that our people are heard and represented in every way possible. I will strongly support the organisation to make that change for the people and Community. I am currently a Director for the PBC which is the Barkandji Native Title for NSW. I also sit on Koori Court as a respected Elder within the Community. I also in the past have been the Chair for the LAECG and I have been working with the Department of Education for well over 25 years. I am a proud Barkindji woman and have lived in the Mildura area all my life. I have 3 daughters and 8 Grandchildren. I am well known within my Community and I feel that I am respected by all. If I am elected as a Director, I know that I will work together with the other Directors, CEO and other workers within the organisation are performing professionally for our people and the Community.