

Nomination for Chairperson: Samara McPhedran

Proposed by: Gai Ferrario

Seconded by: Monique Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I first became engaged with QHVSG in 2016, as part of my research and community outreach activities for the University I worked with at the time. That led to the development of a close partnership with QHVSG and to a number of mutually beneficial collaborations, including research projects, seminars, conference presentations, and workshops. I joined the Board in 2018, serving as an Ordinary Member, and was asked to serve as Chairperson early in 2019. I have served in that role ever since.



As a Board member, what contributions will you make to the organisation, in line with our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that will have a positive impact on the quality of life for our members?

Since 2019, I have had the honour of serving QHVSG in the role of Chairperson of the Board of Directors. Over that time, I have provided stable leadership that has steered us through a number of different challenges. My goal is to balance our plans for growth and new activities with always making sure that, in everything we do, our focus stays squarely on the people who have lost their lives to homicide and their loved ones who are left behind. I have worked closely not only with my Board colleagues but also with our CEO, to help build solid communication, a shared view about where we want to go in the future, and ensure that the Board and the QHVSG staff who are there on the ground all have the same understanding about where we are heading. I have always done my best to meet members, talk about what the Board is doing, and – most importantly – listen to what you have to say about your organisation and what you want and need from us. This is the approach I will continue to take if you see fit to elect me as Chair for the year ahead.

What is your background and how can your talents and skills (professional and/or personal) benefit the organisation and its members?

I am an experienced leader who has worked in research, policy, and program management positions within government and academia, as well as in the private sector. I have a track record of leading diverse teams of people, thinking strategically about the direction those teams go in, and negotiating effective solutions to difficult problems. I am experienced in advocacy and advisory positions, with an extensive track record of providing evidence-based advice to decision-makers to shape policy change. I have sat on a number of high-level advisory groups, including state and federal Ministerial panels, and I am often invited to provide advice to government about violence prevention and related challenges. I am comfortable working with politicians, public servants, and the media, and have been doing this for many years. During my time as QHVSG Chair, I have used these skills to build our profile, represent us to government, and open new doors and opportunities for our organisation at both state and federal levels. I have a strong commitment to building and strengthening collaborative relationships between different groups, and a history of establishing and expanding networks across multiple sectors. I will continue to share these skills with QHVSG to enhance our existing focus on building the best possible support for members, educating the wider community about homicide and its impacts on families and communities, and developing services and driving reform to help homicide survivors. I also hold a PhD in Psychology, a Bachelor of Arts (with Honours), a Bachelor of Laws, and a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice. From 2018-2020 I was the Founding Director of the Griffith University Homicide Research Unit. I currently run my own consultancy business, and am also an Honorary Associate Professor in the TC Beirne School of Law, University of Queensland.

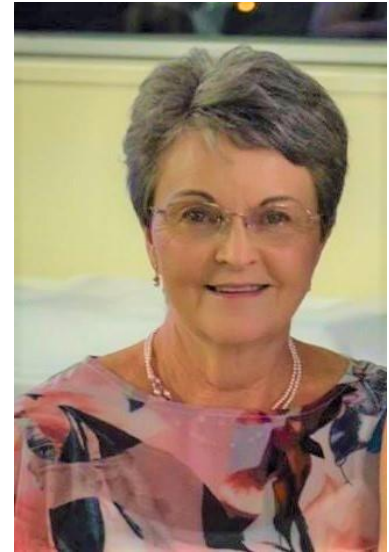


Nomination for Deputy Chairperson: Leanne Pullen

Proposed by: Gary Pullen
Seconded by: Angela Head

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I became involved with QHVSG in 2012 when our son Tim was declared a victim of homicide after having been listed as a missing person. Even though Tim's remains have never been located, out of the six people charged and imprisoned over Tim's murder only one remains in prison. Our family appreciated immensely the support provided by QHVSG and my way of paying it forward was to become involved with this necessary but sadly growing organisation. I have a little verse by Lisa Harlow which I believe epitomises the care given by QHVSG - "Thanks for showing me that even on the darkest, rainiest days, the sun is still there, just behind the clouds, waiting to shine again". Hopefully I am able to help show members that the sun will shine again for them!



As a Board member, what contributions will you make to the organisation, in line with our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that will have a positive impact on the quality of life for our members?

I am proud to have been involved in the planning process of the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan and am proud of being part of the team to already have implemented this and look forward to being able to move forward in a positive manner with the organisation and continue to implement these strategies. My main focus and passion is providing support to our members, especially those living in rural and regional areas. I am a passionate team leader who provides peer support to our members whether that be face to face, phone support, or providing court support. Peer support is so valuable as it is those who have sadly travelled a similar journey who truly understand. The networks that I have, both locally and afar are beneficial to the Peer Support Program. I am fortunate to organise and be part of an amazing support group in Mackay. It never ceases to amaze me how people whose paths would possibly have never crossed, have met under such tragic circumstances and gone on to forge such valuable friendships. Under the circumstances, I am truly blessed..

What is your background and how can your talents and skills (professional and/or personal) benefit the organisation and its members?

I am both passionate and compassionate and show great empathy towards others and always give 100% of myself to whatever I undertake. I have always been a carer and cared for my Mum until she passed away in 2002. I am extremely passionate about and proud of my family and am blessed to have their love, friendship and support. My husband Gary and I are so blessed that our three daughters have produced seven beautiful grandchildren and one beautiful great grandchild who all bring so much love and joy into our lives. I was extensively involved in raising funds for and awareness of the Royal Flying Doctor Service from 2006 - 2012 through the Spirit of Queensland Awards and my dedication saw hundreds of thousands of dollars raised to help purchase life saving areomedical equipment for RFDS aircraft. My connection with the RFDS provided a valuable contact for QHVSG where our peer support volunteers were provided with important training and support which in turn will be beneficial to all our members, especially rural and regional members. Apart from offering support to our members, my greatest achievement has been my involvement in the No Body No Parole Legislation. Gary and I were instrumental in having the Legislation amended to include all perpetrators involved in a homicide rather than only those sentenced for murder.

I believe that my caring nature and dedication to supporting fellow members makes me a suitable candidate for serving on the Board of QHVSG.



Nomination for Secretary: Monique Ferrario

Proposed by: Lorna Lutherborrow
Seconded by: Gai Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I first became a member of QHVSG when my 36 year old brother Mitchell was murdered in April 2009.

In my first year as a member, I became a Volunteer Team Leader on the Gold Coast, which is a position I still hold today.

I feel extremely privileged to support our members in memory of my brother and find a great deal of comfort providing support to people who unfortunately find themselves in a similar situation.

As a Board member, what contributions will you make to the organisation, in line with our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that will have a positive impact on the quality of life for our members?

It was a fantastic opportunity to be involved with the development of the Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2024. I wish to continue the hard work that the Board of Directors has contributed to the organisation in continuing to work towards the strategic direction of QHVSG.

A large volume of QHVSG's Strategic Plan is underpinned by the Peer Support Program. As a Team Leader and member, I am extremely aware of the importance of peer support - the very foundation on which QHVSG was founded.

I would like to continue engaging with members to involve them in the decisions that impact the organisation and provide them with opportunities to help build a strong support network of peers.

I am also extremely committed to raising awareness in the community, supporting our education programs, creating and planning events, fundraising and providing advocacy for our members, all of which are in line with the Strategic Plan and have a positive impact on the quality of life for our members.

What is your background and how can your talents and skills (professional and/or personal) benefit the organisation and its members?

I am a professional Early Childhood Educator and have managed my own successful business for the past 21 years. In my job I nurture, educate and care for children, follow legislations and policies and liaise with families to develop the best outcomes for their children. Additionally, I participate in professional development training and undertake all of the financial and administrative work that comes with running your own business.

I have great communication skills and always work to a high standard, whether that be individually or in a team environment. I also have the ability to make decisions and solve problems, as well as develop and implement plans to achieve the best outcomes possible. This is something that is required of me every day in my profession.

I joined the QHVSG Board of Directors in 2015 as a General Member, also serving on the Support and Regional Development Committee. In 2016 I served as the Honorary Treasurer and I have served as the Board of Directors Secretary for the last five years.

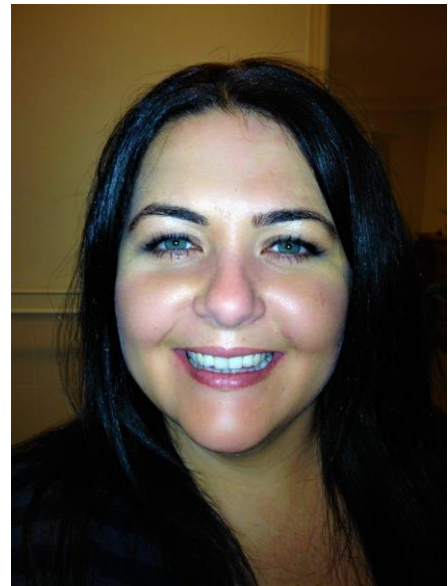
I am a dedicated and keen fundraiser and I volunteer at numerous fundraising barbecues and events. I have been involved in the organisation and creation of many events in my time with QHVSG, including the Brisbane Walk for Support and Family Fun Day, the International Women's Day breakfast, numerous Gold Coast Awareness Day, Walk for Support and Family Fun Days, the Annual Night of Recognition and Christmas Celebration, the QHVSG Children's Christmas Party, the Men's Support Weekends and I organised QHVSG's 25th anniversary event 'A Splash of Silver' with my Board colleague, Leanne Pullen.

I feel a great sense of pride in being able to give something back to the organisation and its members. I enjoy organising events for members to participate in and to help raise public awareness for QHVSG.

I am a committed and hardworking Volunteer Team Leader and have supported many QHVSG members through peer support, Court support and facilitating the monthly Gold Coast Peer Support Group meetings.

I was recognised for my volunteer efforts in 2013 and again in 2018 when I was honoured to be awarded the QHVSG Volunteer of the Year

I am passionate about supporting our members and giving them a voice. I am an enthusiastic advocate for member's needs, I will always stand up for what I believe is in their best interest and I never forget that I am here to serve you, the members of QHVSG.



Nomination for Treasurer: Conor O'Brien

Proposed by: Monique Ferrario

Seconded by: Samara McPhedran

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

Appointed as Treasurer by the Board to fill vacancy in the role of Treasurer in October 2021.

As a board member, what contributions will you make to the organisation in line with our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that will have a positive impact on the quality of life of our members?

As a Board member I will utilise my professional experience in commercial and policy roles to assist the QHVSG achieving its strategic objectives, in particular those objectives related to

- advocating for improvements to policy, law, and practice,
- Building strong relationships with various stakeholders,
- Developing a positive culture, and
- Developing sustainable practices and relationships.

What is your background and how can your talents and skills benefit the organisation and its members?

Conor's professional career spans 15 years in which time he has held various commercial, economic and policy advisory roles. Conor has worked within a variety of commercial and public service organisations including utilities, global advisory firms and the Queensland Parliament. Conor possesses intimate knowledge of Queensland policy and law making processes along with professional and academic experience in infrastructure development and financing. In 2020 Conor gained entry into the University of Queensland's Doctor of Medicine (MD) program. During his medical studies Conor has focussed on developing the skills necessary to achieve excellence in patient centred care through translation of biomedical and psychosocial knowledge to the clinical environment. Conor has special interests in critical care and rural medicine, and management of patients experiencing traumatic stress.

Conor joined the QHVSG Board in 2021 after learning of the important and unique contribution the organisation makes to the wider community through both support and advocacy for those impacted by homicide. Through his role on the Board, Conor works to assist in the development and execution of the QHVSG's operational and strategic objectives to ensure the organisation's capability enables it to continue to deliver the highest quality support services and advocacy.





Nomination for General Member: Ian Rowan

Proposed by: Monique Ferrario

Seconded by: Samara McPhedran

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

Dr Samara McPhedran approached me to nominate in September 2019 and I have served on the Board since then.



As a Board member, what contributions will you make to the organisation, in line with our 2016-2021 Strategic Plan that will have a positive impact on the quality of life for our members?

I bring over 40 years of experience in the business sectors of marketing, events, finance, strategic/operational planning, insurance and banking.
I have held senior positions in NFP charities with DGR status (CEO/GM positions) in community, health, public safety and emergency management. All of this can be focussed to provide advice, support and governance in the services that QHVSG offer to the families of victims of homicide.

What is your background and how can your talents and skills (professional and/or personal) benefit the organisation and its members?

In 1997 in the UK, my niece Kate Bushell was brutally murdered while walking her neighbour's dog close to her home in daylight. It is still an unsolved case for the Exeter Police.
I vowed to honour her memory where and when I can and have been a White Ribbon ambassador for over 10 years and now Chair the new local Mackay White Ribbon Committee. I started the charity "Safe Streets" in Brisbane working closely with the Queensland Police and am keen to continue serving QHVSG.
Currently I am the CEO of CQ Rescue providing emergency rescue services for seriously ill or injured people with the challenges of COVID-19, which can be useful in providing strategic input to the QHVSG services.



Nomination for General Member: Chris Clarke

Proposed by: Samara McPhedran

Seconded by: Monique Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I first became involved with QHVSG during my time as a journalist with the Courier-Mail. I attended open days and developed a rapport with several of the members. I also worked with the group in my casual role as a member of Griffith University's Homicide Research Unit.



As a board member, what contributions will you make to the organisation in line with our 2021-2024 strategic plan that will have a positive impact on the quality of life of our members?

I plan to bring a knowledge of how to promote QHVSG's activities to the public. I am in the process of developing a media strategy for the organisation, with an aim of making the group more widely recognised and influential in state policy decisions.

What is your background and how can your talents and skills benefit the organisation and its members?

As a former journalist and current editor, I consider myself an expert communicator. I have an ability to resonate with people from all walks of life to communicate my view points and achieve favourable outcomes. But I also pride myself on listening to the needs and values of others. I will use this balance to bridge the gap between the public, the media and our organisation.



Nomination for General Member: Julie Waters

Proposed by: Samara McPhedran

Seconded by: Monique Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I became a member of QHVSG in July 2011, when my son Damian Leeding was murdered.

Initially I went to the meetings for support but it soon became apparent to me that this organisation was unique in what it did for its members. I realised that I would like to be a part of helping others through this horrific journey we have to face, consequently I have served on the board previously.

As a Board member, what contributions will you make to the organisation, in line with our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan that will have a positive impact on the quality of life for our members?

Having been a part of the team that developed the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, I have a real understanding of the work involved in helping the organisation achieve these goals.

I have served on the Board of Directors in the capacity of general Board member for several years. I have also previously served on the Events and Fundraising Committee and I am currently the Chair of the newly formed Youth Support and Education Subcommittee.

I have volunteered at fundraising BBQ's and more recently as Court Support and will continue to do this in the future. I am committed to supporting the Board and staff to achieve greater outcomes for our members in all facets of the organisation, including support, legislative reform, education programs, research projects, raising awareness and developing an inclusive engagement strategy.

I am a keen advocate of law reform and will continue to support members by helping to implement new strategies for law reform and advocacy to achieve positive outcomes for our members.

I will continue to strengthen existing relationships, while forging new ones with community organisations and government. I will help to develop new and innovative programmes to re-engage with our members to identify support mechanisms.

What is your background and how can your talents and skills (professional and/or personal) benefit the organisation and its members?

I am currently Chairperson for the Body Corporate committee where I live in Currumbin, Gold Coast. I have previously worked with girl guides being a leader and have been active with many sporting groups, such as Nippers, soccer and swimming clubs.

I have strong and various ties with the community and have utilised these to great success in helping to source and secure major prizes for our fundraising efforts.

I have previously helped the Marketing and Communications Project group with QHVSG Brisbane Family Fun Day, Walk for Support, International Women's Day Dining With Daisies breakfast, Gold Coast Family Fun Day and Walk for Support and the Inaugural Annual Night of Recognition and Christmas Celebration, of which I will continue to do along with Court Support.

