

Nomination for Chairperson: Sherrie Meyer

Proposed by: Monique Ferrario

Seconded by: Gai Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I became active in QHVSG in 1995 as a Founding member. My family and I have been involved in the Group since that time in a number of roles. I was the president of the organisation from 1995 through 1998 and a staff member from 1998 through 2006.

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?

As a Board member I would be honoured and feel very privileged to serve QHVSG and its members.

I would be dedicated to working to provide support to the families who have experienced homicide as they move forward through grief, loss and recovery. Along with this vital task I would be committed to promoting education, awareness, and training within the organisation and to the wider community to promote the needs and the welfare of families impacted by homicide. As a previous Board member, I understand the challenges of negotiating a broad range of systems including government, non government and the business sector in promoting the multitude of needs experienced by our membership.

Our members, though deeply bereaved and facing immense hurdles, have a wealth of knowledge and valuable information and I believe it is their experience and voice that will shape the direction of our Board.

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

I hold a Registered Nurse license (FLA - USA) and BSW (Bach Social Work) and AMHSW (ace mental health soc work) in Australia.

I have worked as a specialist in Child Trauma Counselling for 15 years. In that time my duties required consultation and liaison with Police, Child Safety, Education, Health and Mental Health, Victim Assist and DOJ, as well as, community and private organisation.

I am now in private practice and provide trauma counselling and psychotherapy to children, adolescents and adults. I also provide group art therapy specialising in trauma healing and recovery.



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 aeromedical 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.

Throughout our different journeys in life, Gary and I have been honoured by the people we have met and humbled by the stories to which we have been privy.

My passion definitely lies with being able to support our members by being an advocate for them and a confidante.

Gary and I were instrumental in having amendments made to the No Body No Parole Legislation in 2017 so that the legislation covered all prisoners involved in a homicide not just those who are sentenced for murder.

As a team leader I am dedicated to staying in contact with our members and making sure that our support meetings are successful and encourage members to attend. Covid changed our lives on many levels although I did my best to stay in contact and support our members.

As well as organising meetings, I organise our Awareness Day where we plant daisies in memory of our loved ones at the Mackay Botanical Gardens. I organise our Memorial Days in Mackay.

I organise our social events such as our Christmas get togethers and our Children's Christmas parties.

I also teamed up with Monique Ferrario to organise the 25th Anniversary 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 and I attended my first peer support group.

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 in the development of the Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2024. I wish carry on with the hard work that the Board of Directors has contributed to the organisation and continue 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 member and volunteer, 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.

The experience and knowledge of our members is invaluable in enabling the organisation to provide them with the best support, and the strong and positive relationship that I have with members will allow me to continue to improve the support they receive and to ensure their voices are heard.

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 22 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 on the Risk and Finance Committee. I have served as the Board of Directors Secretary for the last six years and have served on the events and fundraising committee, and in 2022 I became the lead of the Women's Support Weekend's Project Group.

I am a dedicated and keen fundraiser and I volunteer at numerous fundraising 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 and Women'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 was also the proud co-recipient of the 2022 QHVSG Volunteer of the Year alongside my mother Gai. 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: Gai Ferrario

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: Bernadette Schiller (Duthie)

Proposed by: Monique Ferrario

Seconded by: Gai Ferrario



How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

Approximately six years ago I attended my first peer support meeting after being introduced to QHVSG by my friend of many years Lof, who had lost his brother to homicide. Lof asked me to attend a meeting with him as he knew that I had survived a mass murder at Ayers Rock in the Northern Territory in 1983.

I was surprised by the support that I received at the meeting as I didn't think anything could help, however it has been of great benefit to me and I have attended the peer support meetings 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 of our members?

I will endeavor to help in any way I can to ensure members receive the best support possible.

I understand the value of peer support and how important that is to our members and the entire organisation.

I have strong relationships with members and I will bring forward their thoughts and views on the support they want and need.

I am passionate about support for our younger members and I will work hard with the Board to ensure the best supports possible are available to all members.

I have great communication skills and build relationships quickly. I have the ability to network with stakeholders to provide great outcomes for members.

I am a keen volunteer for QHVSG, assisting at most events held in South East Queensland, assisting in raising funds for QHVSG, creating awareness for the organisation and supporting members in any way I can.

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

I have a background in many areas, including customer service, retail and running my own business.

I have lived in remote Indigenous communities, so I have a deep understanding of the family ties with first nations people.

I have great people skills and will listen to members and their needs.

I am very adaptable and often step out of my comfort zone.

My work experience has provided me with broad experience in customer service, financial knowledge, excellent communication and critical thinking skills.

I am hardworking, trustworthy and take immense pride in achieving goals, solving problems and exceeding expectations.

I have experience volunteering for QHVSG, providing Court support, telephone support and home visits. I have also at times facilitated support group meetings.

I am an enthusiastic volunteer, assisting at many events including the Gold Coast Awareness Day, Night of Recognition and Children's Christmas party.

I was privileged to be the recipient of the QHVSG Volunteer of the Year in 2021.

I care deeply for QHVSG and its members and look forward to being a strong advocate for them.

I have the skills, knowledge and passion to help the Board deliver the best support possible for the QHVSG members.

I understand the importance of members feeling supported and heard and will always work hard to ensure they feel valued and respected.

Nomination for General Member: Julie Waters

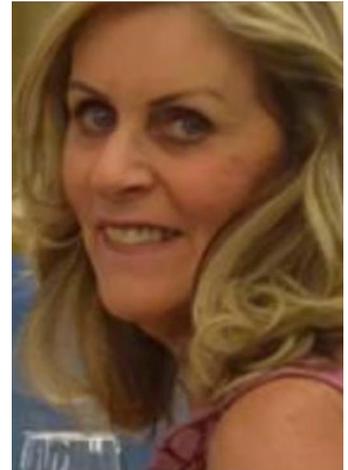
Proposed by: Gai Ferrario

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.

Nomination for General Member: Sarah Simpson

Proposed by: Gai Ferrario

Seconded by: Monique Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I came across the QHVSG via the Facebook page. I viewed the page and immediately sent a direct message to voice my interest in volunteering into peer support.

I have wanted to find such a group for most of my life as coming from Tasmania originally there is no such organisation to support victims, so this felt like I was able to find a family that I had always been searching for.



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?

My contribution to the members and the organisation: I am having an opened minded direction to have our members and the organisation more reachable and have "us" as the organisation to be seen by more avenues and demographics becoming more visible to the public.

I would love to be an open-door board member for members to have someone who can listen to their needs and to voice their amazing ideas that I know they have. It allows everyone to keep growing and advocating. Participating as much as possible where I can big or small to assist the organisation.

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

I have a range of experience within being on boards of organisations in the past from being within the equine space on and off for around a decade, mainly in general board member roles.

Lots of experience with fundraising drives, ideas, events.

Over a decade in multi-industry experienced administrator including, accounts, data entry, database entry, online platforms such as sales force, Shopify, reception, scheduling.

Builds relationships quickly and happy to listen and support - Yes! I can make a friend with a brick wall.

I am not afraid to be the conversation starter to break the ice and make people feel welcome and valued.

Nomination for General Member: Sari Mason

Proposed by: Monique Ferrario

Seconded by: Gai Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I became involved with QHVSG when my son Noah witnessed the death of his best friend after he'd been stabbed by two teen offenders. They were 15 years old at the time.

Over a two year period I sought help from two Brisbane hospitals, police, psychologists, social workers, community youth services and counsellors as Noah's mental health declined. After witnessing this tragic death Noah became suicidal, had uncontrolled seizures and has had ongoing health and emotional issues.

The response I have received from all parties has been there is no support for witnesses of homicide.

Noah was called as a witness at the trial where we met support staff from QHVSG for the first time and were informed that we should have been connected with QHVSG the night the death occurred.

Had Noah received the correct support he'd be in a much better space than where he is currently. As a result of this journey I would like to work together with QHVSG to implement changes and to refine current policies to ensure no person will go through this ever again.



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 will adhere to all legislative requirements and maintain strong communication with the board. I understand the importance of supporting all stakeholders. I understand and will support our members to ensure they have adequate and effective support by implementing procedures that ensure all customers are recognised and supported.

As a board member I will endeavour to educate our community and current stakeholders about the importance of making connections with QHVSG at the point of death and hope to implement procedures to ensure this happens by recommending reporting and feedback procedures.

Our platforms, our community crimes are changing rapidly, the ripple effect is growing and becoming wider. I believe we need to ensure we maintain a positive, caring culture with each other and the wider community. The recent increase of homicide with victims and perpetrators becoming younger is a growing concern and the need for safe, effective trauma care is vital.

As a board member I will work cohesively with the board to source funding and look for new ideas and ways to ensure QHVSG continues to connect people with the correct resources through crisis periods in order to keep up with our ever changing environment.

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

I have the wisdom of experience.

I am here to serve.

I am humble, caring and believe we're here to help each other get through this journey of life.

I started, (but did not complete) my nursing training in the SO's, as I enjoyed geriatric nursing, psych nursing and working in palliative care. I found it rewarding and an honour to look after my patients during their final years.

I am passionate about helping others and working toward the greater good in all situations.

I have been a Flight Attendant for 22 years where I'm fortunate to have gained valuable skills in customer service, team work and customer care. During this time I was also the Director of a skin care company, where I've gained valuable skills in strategic thinking, marketing, manufacturing and management of supply chains.

I believe with the skills I've gained in serving and caring for people, along with my passion for change and growth will be an asset to QHVSG.