

Nomination for Secretary: Monique Ferrario

Proposed by: Gai Ferrario

Seconded by: Conor O'Brien

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 continue the hard work that the Board of Directors has contributed to the organisation and continue to work towards setting new strategic goals for QHVSG by helping to develop the new plan in 2024.

As a member and volunteer, I am extremely aware of the importance of peer support - the very foundation on which QHVSG was built. I would like to continue engaging with members to involve them in the decisions that impact the organisation and to 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 23 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.

I joined the QHVSG Board of Directors in 2014 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 seven years and have also served on the events and fundraising committee.

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 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. In 2023 I was the recipient of the Karen Andrews McPherson Community Achiever Awards that recognises volunteers in the Federal Electoral area of McPherson, on the Gold Coast, again 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 the members of QHVSG.



Nomination for Chairperson: Sherrie Meyer

Proposed by: Julie Waters

Seconded by: Monique Ferrario

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I became active in QHVSG in 1995 as a founding member after we lost our son 17 year old Gabe in 1993. 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. I have continued to volunteer in various roles and believe strongly in the peer support focus of QHVSG.



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 current Board member, I understand the challenges of negotiating a broad range of systems including government, non government, community and 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 shapes 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 am an accredited mental health social worker (AMHSW) and spent my early working life as registered nurse. I have worked supporting victims of crime professionally and in voluntary roles for over 35 years. I have worked as a specialist in Child and Adult Trauma Counselling for 16 years including early intervention for infants, child protection, domestic and family violence and sexual trauma. In that time my duties also required consultation and liaison with Police, Child Safety, Education, Health and Mental Health, Victim Assist and DOJ, as well as, community and private organisations.

I am now in private practice and provide trauma counselling and psychotherapy to children, adolescents and adults specialising in trauma stabilisation, processing and recovery.

I believe my life experience can benefit QHVSG by bringing understanding of the personal experience while also providing professional talents and skills to members.

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 seven 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 continue 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 and will continue to promote that important support service.

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 Southeast 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 being a small business owner.

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 continuing to serve the members and 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: Sarah Simpson

Proposed by: Julie Waters

Seconded by: Conor O'Brien

How and when did you become engaged with QHVSG?

I have been involved with QHVSG for around 2 years now. I found the group via a Facebook sponsored ad. Brett and Monique offered great support and information on how to get involved. I have been coming to as many meetings as possible for the support group to offer assistance to any member needing support.



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 working within the strategic planning team for our 2024 vision. I am hoping to offer as much support as possible to our team and our members. I also look forward to assisting again with our Night of Recognition. And will continue to offer support to our members at meetings and personal support. I also look forward to assisting with any volunteer opportunities as well.

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

I have over 10 years Administration experience. Lived personal experience, great communication and interpersonal skills. And also one year experience on the current board.



Nomination for General Member: Julie Waters

Proposed by: Monique Ferrario

Seconded by: Gai 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. 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 programs 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 within 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. I have volunteered at many QHVSG events, including the Brisbane Family Fun Day and Walk for Support, International Women's Day Dining with Daisies breakfast, Gold Coast Family Fun Day and Walk for Support, Children's Christmas party and the Inaugural Annual Night of Recognition and Christmas Celebration, all of which I will continue to do along with Court Support.

