

2018 Directors Profiles

Kate Tully (Chair)

Kate Tully is Chair of the QCOSS Board. Kate is an experienced nonprofit professional; her subject expertise focuses on issues impacting women and girls, while her functional areas of interest include governance, strategy and change management. Kate has been an active member of governing and advisory bodies for more than 20 years, including the Ethics Review Committee of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Premiers Council for Women (NSW). She is currently a member of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council. Kate is the Head of College at Duchesne College (a residential college for women within the University of Queensland), and also serves as Company Secretary of YWCA Queensland.

Nadia Currie (nominated member)

Nadia has served on several committees and advisory groups including the Aboriginal Suicides and Mental Health Committee at the Hunter Institute for Mental Health, The National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Budget Steering Committee and served as Chair, Patient Journey Working Committee for the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and is due to complete her Masters of Law in July 2018.

As the Operations Manager at QATSICPP, Nadia encourages social change and transformational leadership – not only within QATSICPP, but to the broader workforce and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families. This entails ensuring the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care are heard and further represented to achieve equity and access to services.

As QCOSS and QATSICPP share a common goal in ensuring the voices of those needed are heard and represented accordingly. Thus, Nadia's interest in participating on the QCOSS Board of Directors would ensure robust discussion pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander social determinants as she has had previous experience in native title, stolen generation linkage, housing and health, with the ability to broaden the scope and speak generally.

Faiza El Higzi (general member)

Faiza is a general member of QCOSS with over 20 years' experience in the community sector as a board member, manager and volunteer focusing on emerging African, Arab and Islamic communities. She also has extensive experience working with youth and refugees. Currently Faiza is a member of the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council and Metro South Health Consumer Advisory Committee. She was the Human Rights Advisor for the National Council for Women and a member of the Queensland Ministerial Multicultural Committee.

Faiza has 10 years' experience in government policy at both state and federal levels of strategic policy, research and industry development. Her experience in the NGO sector includes community development, refugee settlement and youth engagement. Faiza has a number of qualifications including a post graduate level in Architecture, Project Management, International Business and Education. She is currently a PHD scholar at the University for Queensland focusing on gender studies.

Matt Gardiner (general member)

Matt is the Executive Director, Child & Family Services with Australia's first charity, The Benevolent Society. Leading a large, professional workforce across several states, delivering services across a portfolio of counseling, early childhood education, mental health, violence prevention, child protection and community development and includes one of Australia's first Social Impact Bonds, Resilient Families. Passionate about social justice, improving systems and therapeutic practice, Matt is an experienced practitioner and has held several senior executive roles some of Australia's leading not-for-profits. He is proud to contribute to the ongoing strength of QCOSS in its strategic objectives and to represent members across the state.

Matt is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has undergraduate qualifications in psychology and counselling, Masters in Clinical Counselling, Grad. Dip. In Strategic Leadership and is currently studying an MBA.

Richard Johnson (nominated member)

Richard trained as a Registered Nurse, has degrees in Social Science, Counselling, and Master of Counselling. He has over 30 years' experience working in a number of community services and non-government organisations including senior executive positions in Lifeline Community Care Qld, UnitingCare Community, and Suncare Community Services. As a community leader in regional Queensland Richard was responsible for a wide variety of community, child safety, domestic violence, disability services, aged care, and family services. His leadership roles spanned regions from Central Qld, Wide Bay, and Sunshine Coast. More recently Richard ventured into private consulting and home care assessment. Having spent most of his career working in regional Queensland, along with his role in providing senior leadership in community recovery activities. Richard is acutely aware of many of the issues facing individuals, families and communities throughout regional areas of Queensland.

Anita Veivers (regional member)

Anita Veivers is a highly experienced senior executive, currently Executive Director of Centacare FNQ, a local organisation highly regarded as a long-standing provider of person centred community services across mental health, counselling, aged care, migrant services and disability support. Anita was previously CEO of ARC Disability Services, in the leadership role of this specialist disability services provider for more than 20 years.

Passionate about working with people and community, Anita has served as a member of several community advisory groups across the health, disability and community sectors. As chair of the FNQ Regional Disability Advisory Council Anita also represents FNQ on the Queensland Disability Advisory Council, currently in her third term as Deputy Chair. Anita has almost 30 years community sector experience in Australia and the UK, and is a strong advocate for community collaboration and partnership.

Gerry Weatherall (general member)

Gerry is a member of the Senior Executive of Churches of Christ in Queensland and heads up the Business Development Group. Churches of Christ provides services to over 45,000 people across seniors living, homelessness and housing, child, youth and family services and chaplaincy and through a number of local Christian churches.

Prior to joining the Executive Team of Churches of Christ in 2010, Gerry was the Deputy Chair of the Board of Churches of Christ Care in 2009 and of the new combined Board of Churches of Christ Queensland in 2010. Gerry has had significant other experience in corporate leadership having served on the Board of EDMI Ltd, an International company listed in Singapore. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Mark Henley (Chief Executive Officer)

Mark Henley is Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) – Queensland's leading force for social change to eliminate poverty and disadvantage. With nearly 600 members, QCOSS undertakes informed advocacy and supports a strong community service sector. QCOSS's key activities focus on providing effective policy advice, working to strengthen responsive community services and having productive partnerships with government, private sector, the media and the sector. This work is done with a Queensland free of poverty and disadvantage front of mind.

Mark's professional background is an accountant and then moved into the community services sector with the Spinal Injuries Association, as Chief Accountant in 1989 and then Chief Executive Officer from 1999 to 2011. Mark has 26 years of experience in the community services sector and a commitment to creating responsive services, independence, dignity and better outcomes for people experiencing poverty and disadvantage. During this time, he has worked with government, business and the broader community. He is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Deputy Chair of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council.