

Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) Board Director Nomination 2019

My name is Nicole Turner, I am a proud Kamilaroi woman from New South Wales. I am strongly passionate about capacity building and making a difference working with our communities, hence, why I joined IAHA. I currently hold a full-time position with the New South Wales (NSW) Rural Doctor's Network as the Aboriginal Workforce Engagement Manager.

My journey with IAHA started in 2014, then in 2015 was elected to the IAHA Board as a Graduate Director. In 2016, I was honoured to be elected as IAHA Chairperson and I have been the Chairperson for the past three years.

My health career began when I started studying to become a nurse in NSW. Once qualified, I took up a nursing position within the Aboriginal Community Controlled health sector. Soon after, I developed an interest in research. It was during this time that I soon realized that there were few very Indigenous nutritionists in the country. I undertook further study towards a Bachelor of Applied Science (Community Nutrition). Qualifying as a Community Nutritionist is one of my significant achievements in life. I am only 1 of 5 in the country, and went on to a professional research position.

I developed my skills and knowledges of the Aboriginal community-controlled sector including other Director positions, research, policy, management, governance and community engagement. Currently, I hold an Adjunct Professor position of nutrition and dietetics with the University of Canberra. I research and publish work that only benefits Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – strongly believing in 'Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands.' I have maintained my strong links to community and highly value my community connections. I continue to nurture my community connections personally and professionally. This has been demonstrated in my role as the Chairperson of IAHA through partnerships and building relationships to benefit our work.

I have been fortunate to see IAHA grow, support, transform and lead not only the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sector, but also within the mainstream health sector. I have been on this journey with IAHA and contributed to building positive relationships with Commonwealth, State and Local Governments as corporate stakeholders. I have gained strong and formidable leadership skills in leading and driving strategic change within our organisation and very proud of the collective and collaborative approach that IAHA takes with members.

In the IAHA Chairperson role, I believe that I have demonstrated my corporate skills and strategic thinking over the last 3 years. I have played a role in the IAHA Academy growth and delivery which is now being rolled out nationally.

I hold the belief that Indigenous Allied Health Australia's team, board and leadership hold the key to a future of optimal social and emotional wellbeing and economic independence. I believe that I have the necessary skills, expertise and corporate knowledge to lead in partnership with the Board over the next term with members to achieve our vision for IAHA.