

IAHA Director Nomination 2019

My name is Sueanne Gola. I am a proud Kamilaroi woman from Narrabri, NSW. I have 14 years' experience as a psychologist.

After a 10-year journey which began at Newcastle University I completed my post graduate studies and graduated from University of Southern Queensland with a Masters in Psychology (Clinical) in April this year and I am currently completing the registrar program to become a Clinical Psychologist.

I have predominantly worked in Child and Youth Mental Health. I have a strong passion for working with youth and families to address the impacts of intergenerational trauma; and for providing early intervention to improve mental health and social and emotional wellbeing of youth and their families. I am currently the currently the Acting Day Program Co-ordinator and responsible for conducting a service evaluation and transformational change project to improve the efficacy of the program.

In my career I have worked in team leader and Acting regional management positions, however my interest in leadership was sparked when I participated in the Indigenous Workshop hosted by IAHA in 2015. This training increased my personal, professional and cultural confidence and inspired me to take on leadership roles. I subsequently joined the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service Making Tracks Committee which identifies and oversees close the gap initiatives within the Darling Downs Health Service. I nominated and was successful in becoming the chairperson of the making tracks committee when I returned to work after maternity leave in 2017. I held this position until February this year when role the newly established Director of Indigenous Health position took over the position as part of her duties. I also joined the Australian Psychological Society's (APS) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and Psychology Interest Group in 2015, for the past 3 years I have been the Treasurer of this interest group.

I have been a member of IAHA for several years and I have seen the high-quality leadership and advocacy of the board. I have witnessed the resources and professional development opportunities which have been created by IAHA and I am keen to be involved. I am confident that my professional and personal experiences have given me the skills necessary to take the step to become a director of IAHA and to positively contribute to the Board and the future of Indigenous health.