

Stephen Corporal Statement

I am an Eastern Arrernte man who worked as an Aboriginal health worker in coalface social welfare work for many years in a community health service before entering into higher education to complete a Bachelor of Social Work/ Bachelor of Arts (Psych), Masters of Social Policy, GC-IRPRO and currently a PhD Candidate. I have an extensive knowledge of working in community, government and education at various levels including governance levels. My understanding is that IAHA provides national leadership in relation to our peoples allied health policy development and implementation, and our members are important in these health outcomes. We aim for increased recognition of Indigenous allied health professionals and the role we play in improving access and delivery of culturally responsive and holistic health care services. IAHA works with Government, Community organisations and individuals to make sure that policy development and decisions impacting on allied health professionals, Indigenous communities and individuals remains a top priority. I would like to see more Indigenous people stepping up to be allied health workers in all the various fields to deliver culturally appropriate holistic health care to our people. This vision includes encouraging our Indigenous youth to continue into higher education to achieve this goal. In achieving this I would like to see IAHA supporting our members throughout all the education processes continuing on to ongoing education and support throughout their allied health careers. I am employed at a senior role within the university system and regularly present lecturers and talks to university students and staff. I am also finishing of a PhD on increasing the Indigenous health workforce: Indigenous students and academics interaction. My commitment to my community in Brisbane is being the Chair of a Board of Directors of a Gallang Place. My experience of being on Boards has been that the Board of Directors provides overall governance rather than the day to day running of the organisation. When on a Board I am a big picture person and team player involved in big picture issues such as formulating strategic direction, setting governance policies, monitoring and supervising (CEO and organisational performance), providing accountability to the members, risk management, appointing and working with and through the CEO. Overall I put myself forward as an experienced Aboriginal Allied Health professional who is willing to contribute to governance of IAHA.

Stephen Corporal BSW, BA(psych), MSocPol, GC-IRPRO, PhD Candidate, JP (Qual)