

Dr Fiona Willer, AdvAPD, PhD

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Governance Skills and Values Statement

As an early career board director, I lead with the values of curiosity, compassion, ethics and integrity. I have managed small to medium operational budgets, in both emerging and mature membership organisations. My concern for the wellbeing of stakeholders both inside organisations, and those who influence and are affected by organisational decisions, is demonstrated by my strong attention to detail and enthusiasm for outreach activities. To formalise my skills, I have undertaken training in healthcare law and ethics, public policy, the Queensland Human Rights Act 2019, ethics in the boardroom, financial literacy for board directors and shortly will have completed the AICD Board Directors Course.

Qualifications

- 2021 Board Directors Course for **GAICD accreditation** (expected completion December 2021), *Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)*
- 2021 **Doctor of Philosophy** 'A Good Fit: Health-Oriented Size Acceptance in Australian Dietetic Practice', *Queensland University of Technology (QUT)*
- 2020 **Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)**, *Advance HE (equivalent to Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education)*
- 2007 **Bachelor of Health Science (Nutrition and Dietetics) (Hons 2A)**, *Queensland University of Technology*
- 1998 **Bachelor of Arts (Anthropology and English)**, *University of Queensland, G.P.A: 5.5*
To commence Masters of Bioethics at Monash University in 2022

Governance Experience

- **Board Director** *Dietitians Australia*, 2019-present

Dietitians Australia (www.dietitiansaustralia.org.au) is the national regulatory and advocacy organisation for dietitians in Australia. It represents over 8000 professional members working across a variety of settings to support human nourishment in sickness and in health. As such, Dietitians Australia advocates on the national stage for the health and wellbeing of Australians in key food and nutrition related areas such as aged care, NDIS, food insecurity, chronic disease prevention and treatment, and primary health reform. I was elected to the board by the professional members in 2019.

I see my role on this board to ensure that the organisation and members are acting with integrity and transparency, making evidence-informed decisions and advocating for those most vulnerable, both in the membership (eg new graduates, private practitioners, those returning to work) and in the communities that dietitians serve (Indigenous Australians, older Australians, stigmatised groups, people with chronic and life limiting conditions etc). My specific leadership portfolios are currently Membership Engagement and Research.

As part of this nine-member board, I have been involved with long term strategic planning, risk identification, the companywide re-branding from Dietitians Association of Australia to Dietitians Australia (brand transitioned in 2020), the adoption of a new information management system for the whole organisation which brought data storage back to Australian shores and rationalised a multitude of separate systems, adapting the services to the changing needs of members as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, procurement of new commercial premises for Head Office and development and endorsement of the significantly improved Code of Professional Conduct.

- **Management Committee** *HAES Australia Inc*, 2013 – present

HAES Australia Inc (www.HAESAustralia.org.au) is the national non-profit member organisation that supports and connects health professionals and community members in Australia who support the Health at Every Size (HAES) Principles in their work and their lives. Established in 2013 it now has 400+ members and operates efficiently with many motivated volunteers and a small but agile budget. HAES Australia has appeared in national media and was invited to present at the 2018 Senate Enquiry into the Obesity Epidemic.

As a founding member I took the lead with strategic planning, organising the steering committee and administration duties including filing the original articles of incorporation, eventually serving across all management committee roles (President, Secretary and Treasurer via election) over the years. As such I have in-depth knowledge and skills in the governance of small Queensland-based incorporated associations as well as growing a new organisation and all that entails. I currently co-chair the HAES Australia Governance Committee. It continues to be an honour and privilege to be able to serve for this organisation and community.

- **President/Team Coordinator *Brisbane City Sounds Chorus*, 2021-2023**

Brisbane City Sounds Chorus (www.brisbanecitysounds.com.au) is a member of Sweet Adelines International, a highly respected worldwide organisation of women singers committed to advancing the musical artform of barbershop harmony through education and performance. We are a group of 38 women who have been entertaining audiences with our rich a cappella four-part harmonies and dynamic performance style for more than 15 years. Our members come from all walks of life, across all ages, and from all over Brisbane.

The need to adapt to COVID-19-safe conditions for our rehearsals and performances has been a major part of my duties so far. This has involved ensuring our compliance with the ever-changing state Health Directives and legislation.

- **Vice-President International Association for Size Diversity and Health (ASDAH), 2016-2018**

The Association for Size Diversity and Health (www.asdah.org) is an international non-profit organisation, based in the USA. ASDAH 'envisions a world that celebrates bodies of all shapes and sizes, in which body weight is no longer a source of discrimination and where oppressed communities have equal access to the resources and practices that support health and well-being.'

The role of Vice-President International with ASDAH provided me with a platform to lead outreach activities to countries with burgeoning Health at Every Size (HAES) movements, providing direction and support for HAES-focussed health professionals networks in Japan, New Zealand, Mexico, the UK, South Africa and, of course, Australia. As Membership Committee Lead, I am also proud to have played a central role in the instigation of a sliding scale for membership dues, an initiative that aligned the values of the organisation with its practices and led to significant expansion of the membership in terms of diversity of experiences and identities as well as membership numbers.

Professional Employment (further detail available upon request or via LinkedIn)

2008 – present Lecturer, *Queensland University of Technology (QUT)*, Kelvin Grove

Unit Coordination (UC), lecturing, curriculum and learning design, design and transfer of learning activities and assessment to online and remote learning modalities, assessment of student performance against university criteria and National Competency Standards for Dietitians. Competency across all years of the undergraduate program at QUT. In 2021, UC and lecturer for 'Food and Nutrition' and 'Leadership in Nutrition and Dietetics', and tutor for 'Nutrition across the Lifecycle'. In early years, the initiation and clinical coordination of dietetics services for QUT Clinics.

2013 – present Proprietor, CPD resource developer, educator and spokesperson, *Health Not Diets*, Brisbane

Development and facilitation of continuing professional development resources (guidebooks, workshops, online courses, consultancy, CPD podcast 'Unpacking Weight Science') for health professionals in the application of health-focussed weight inclusive approaches in clinical practice and research. I've provided multiple commissioned workshops and presentations for health professionals organisations and guest lectures for undergraduate and masters-level dietetics students for many Australian universities, and worked with media, in print, television, radio and online.

2008 – 2014 Proprietor, head dietitian and practice manager, *NutritionSense Dietitians and Allied Health*, various locations around Brisbane (GP practice settings)

2007 – 2010 Clinical Dietitian and outpatient clinic coordinator, *The Wesley Hospital*, Auchenflower, Brisbane

Volunteer Committees, Working Parties

In addition to the roles above, I have served on the following committees and professional working parties:

- Dietitians Association of Australia (DAA): Membership Engagement Advisory Committee (2017-19), Corporate Sponsorship Survey and Working Group (2017-18) and Queensland State Branch Executive (2009-2011)
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT): Nutrition and Dietetics Curriculum Advisory Group (2015-2019)
- The Butterfly Foundation: National Primary School Body Image Project, 'Body Bright', 'Body Kind Families' (2018-2021)
- Metro North Medicare Local (Brisbane): Map of Medicine Pathways working groups for 'Obesity', 'Dyspepsia and GORD' and 'Irritable Bowel Syndrome' (2013-2015)

Awards

2021	Nominated for University Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award (QUT)
2020	Awarded post-nominal of Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA)
2020	International Conference of Eating Disorders (ICED), combined Australia and New Zealand Academy of Eating Disorders (ANZAED) and Dietitians Australia (DA) Research Prize for oral research presentation based on quality, relevance and contribution to the field of eating disorder research and dietetics
2019	Finalist for ' 2019 Dietitian of the Year ', ' Allied Health Education Excellence ' and ' Allied Health Impact Achievement ' awards at the 2019 Australian Allied Health Awards
2017	DAA Research Prize recipient for best workshop at the Australia and New Zealand Academy of Eating Disorders (ANZAED) national conference
2015-2020	Recipient of an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) PhD Scholarship
2007	Meals on Wheels Nutrition Award recipient

Education - Short Courses

Governance	Company Directors Course (by Dec 2021) Ethics in the Boardroom Director Financial Literacy Workshop	Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Corporate Information Management Services
Health Law	Health Care Law and Ethics LWN164 (2021)	QUTeX Professional Development
Human Rights	Discrimination Awareness in Queensland Public Entities and the QLD Human Rights Act Diversity Awareness	Queensland Human Rights Commission Queensland Human Rights Commission Queensland Human Rights Commission
Mentoring/ Coaching	Workplace Learning with Coaching and Mentoring How to Mentor in the Workplace	The Open University (UK) TAFE Queensland
Business	Project Management Entrepreneurship	e-Grad School (Australia) e-Grad School (Australia)
Professional academia	Digital Competencies for Researchers Public Policy	e-Grad School (Australia) e-Grad School (Australia)

Professional Memberships

- Advanced Accredited Practising Dietitian (APD since 2007, AdvAPD conferred 2017) with **Dietitians Australia**
- HAES Expert member with the **Association for Size Diversity and Health** (ASDAH)
- Verified Provider with **HAES Australia**
- Professional member (MAICD) of the **Australian Institute of Company Directors** (AICD)
- Professional member (MAITD) of the **Australian Institute of Teaching and Development** (AITD)
- Professional member of the **Public Health Association of Australia** (PHAA)
- Professional member of the **Team-Based Learning Collaborative** (TBLC)
- Australian Independent Dietitian-Nutritionist (AIDN) with the **Society for Australian Independent Dietitian-Nutritionists** (AIDNSoc)

Referees

Dr Lynda Ross

Senior Lecturer, Curriculum Lead: Nutrition & Dietetics
School of Exercise and Nutrition Science,
Queensland University of Technology (QUT)
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Associate Professor Mary Hannan-Jones

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