

**Profile  
of  
Health Consumers Queensland's Ministerial Consumer Advisory Committee**

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**1. Chairperson**

**Mark Tucker-Evans**



Mr Mark Tucker-Evans has been Executive Director of the Council on the Ageing Queensland Inc since 2001 and has professional affiliations with the Queensland Council of Social Service, General Practice Queensland, AMAQ Aged Care Coalition and the Department of Health and Ageing's Aged Care Network. In addition, he is on the advisory panels of the Australasian Centre on Ageing and QUT's Centre of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies.

He has demonstrated leadership and management expertise and extensive experience in representing the needs and interests of consumers and communities, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, rural, regional and remote, culturally and linguistically diverse, financially disadvantaged, older persons, families, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender health.

Mark has associations with a network of community service organisations and high-level, strategic skills in establishing and maintaining effective relationships with Government Ministers, the public service and non-government agencies and advocating on behalf of vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders.

Through his involvement as a non-GP member of General Practice Queensland, Mark has undertaken training, learning the full scope of planning needed for effective public participation, ways to identify communities and their issues and how to develop a public participation plan.

In his application, Mark stated, "Capacity building of consumers begins by providing appropriate information to enable consumers to make informed decisions. Building trust, respect and the sharing of power and knowledge underpins consumer capacity building and engagement".

(Bio approved by Mark on 14 November 2008)

## 2. General Member

### Brendan Horne



Mr Brendan Horne is a Brisbane metropolitan health consumer with broad experience in the Queensland health system, personal experience as a family carer and many years experience in advocating for and supporting carers. Brendan has extensive experience in the delivery of a range of government and community-based human services, including housing, disability, health and communities. He has been employed at Carers Queensland since 2002 and is currently the Manager, Regional Services. In this role, Brendan is responsible for community development services and state-wide counselling and advocacy.

Brendan has experience in representing consumer groups, including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; remote, regional and rural; culturally and linguistically diverse; financially disadvantaged, disability; chronic illness and disease; young people; older persons; the homeless; mental illness; maternal and child health; families; substance abuse; and people with impaired decision-making capacity.

While General Manager, Disability Programs with the Cerebral Palsy League of Queensland, Brendan was awarded the Australian Cerebral Palsy Association's highest honour, the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding contributions in the areas of social welfare, social policy and disability services in both the Government and non-government sectors. He was instrumental in the development of a research project on the contribution of therapy in ageing and disability, which is currently being carried out conjointly with the University of Queensland's Physiotherapy Department and the League.

In addition, Brendan has been instrumental in initiating and leading strategic planning processes in the management of change in Aboriginal communities, in the downscaling of institutions and development of community-based options in the juvenile justice system, as well as the rehabilitation and disability areas. Currently, Brendan is a member of the Disability Services Queensland, Young Persons in Residential Care Working Party.

(Bio approved by Brendan on 12 November 2008)

### 3. General Member

#### Adele Gibson



Ms Adele Gibson is a Gin Gin health consumer, carer of two sons with a disability and a foster parent with over 17 years broad experience in the Queensland health system. She worked as a nurse in the 1970s, a music therapist in the 1980s and is currently a researcher and sociologist with a sustained commitment to consumer and community engagement and government policy and planning. Adele has both experience and ongoing opportunity to hear the lived experiences of others in many areas of the health system and how specialist areas of health parallel social and individual factors like disability, ageing, rural and remote residence and Aboriginality.

Adele is currently a member of Queensland Health's Patient Safety Centre Advisory Council and the State-wide Mental Health Network. She was an inaugural community member of the Queensland Mental Health Review Tribunal. Adele is proud of her 6-year participation on panels reviewing treatment orders made under the *Mental Health Act 2000* and adjudicating on related issues. She is also a past member of the National Disability Advisory body, the Mental Health Branch Steering Committee for implementation of 'Achieving Balance' and Queensland Mental Health State-wide Consumer Advisory Committee.

When contacted about her appointment, Adele said, "My focus is on the complexities of people's needs, and my belief is that we learn from the past but should move forward, positively, into the future."

(Bio approved by Adele on 12 November 2008)

#### **4. General Member**

##### **Gwen Schrieber**



Ms Gwen Schrieber is a Cairns-based, Indigenous, respected elder of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, health consumer and generalist health worker with over 20 years broad experience in the Queensland health system. She is a member of the Australian First Nations Academy for Cultural Family Therapy and Counselling and the Gurriny Yealamucka Community Controlled Health Service. One of Gwen's roles as a health worker was to work with women and community people to educate them to identify preventable diseases, recognise signs and symptoms and provide advice on whom to consult for both health and non-health related incidents.

Gwen has extensive experience in representing consumer groups, including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; cultural and linguistically diverse; rural, regional and remote; chronic illness and disease; older persons; the homeless; mental illness; maternal and child health; families; substance abuse; and people with impaired decision-making capacity. She has acted as a representative on local, state and national advisory committees for health, women, children and justice issues. Gwen has demonstrated skills in the areas of research, policy development and Customary Law.

She has also been involved as an advisor to both communities and Government on issues relating to the health of Indigenous people. Gwen has lived with and worked very closely with Indigenous communities, often in remote locations, gaining their trust and respect. Her position as Community Counsel with the Aboriginal Co-ordinating Council reflects a depth of knowledge and understanding of community views, enabling her to present an accurate summary of those views and health consumers' real life experiences.

In recent times, Gwen has been involved with the Mental Health Review Tribunal, the Children's Service Tribunal and the Child Death Case Review.

(Bio approved by Gwen on 12 August 2008)

## 5. General Member

### Janelle Colquhoun



Ms Janelle Colquhoun is a Brisbane health consumer with over 32 years broad experience in the Queensland health system. She has first hand experience as a cancer survivor and a consumer with insulin dependent diabetes since childhood and the resulting complications of vision impairment, nerve damage and kidney failure. She recently was the recipient of a kidney pancreas transplant.

Janelle is a board member and peer support with the Kidney Support Network and is also a member of the ABC Disability Advisory Committee (a non-government body). She regularly provides peer support and expert advice to Vision Australia, Diabetes Australia Queensland and local hospitals.

Having lived and travelled widely overseas with her career in opera, Janelle has been exposed to a number of international health systems. She is often invited as a speaker to health and disability conferences, functions and most recently to the Australia 2020 Summit in Canberra where she was part of the 'health inequities' stream.

After years of being on health and disability committees, speaking to people at the grass roots level and listening to their stories while sitting in medical waiting rooms, Janelle has gained extensive knowledge and the subsequent experience to represent consumer groups including, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; culturally and linguistically diverse; rural, regional and remote; disability; chronic disease and illness; young and older people; mental illness; maternal and child health; families; and people with impaired decision-making capacity.

Janelle has an established entertainment and production agency which specialises in artists with a disability, giving her invaluable experience to offer high-level advice on what is happening in the 'real world'. In her application, when speaking about the experiences of health consumers she has known and met, Janelle said, "Their perspective about their journey gives me insight to their experiences of navigating through the health system. Equally as important is contact with carers who are the people in our community that need to be recognised and acknowledged for their valuable role in patient care."

(Bio approved by Janelle on 13 November 2008)

## **6. General Member**

### **Alan Neilan**



Mr Alan Neilan is a Mt Isa-based health consumer with broad experience in the Queensland health system. He has resided in Northwest Queensland for a significant period of his working life. Alan has long experience in advocating and working on behalf of his community and more particularly, the North West and Gulf regions.

As a public servant working to address the housing issues of remote Queenslanders and a member of the Mt Isa Health Community Council, Alan has extensive networks in his local community. He is highly competent to articulate the interests of a broad sector of the community, remaining a community panel member of North West Queensland Primary/Allied Health Care, Mt Isa TAFE Council and Ambulance Committee and the local Justices Association.

Alan has experience in representing consumer groups, including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander; rural, regional and remote; disability; and older persons. As Chief Executive Officer of the Kowanyama Aboriginal Community Council (now Kowanyama Shire Council), Alan had the opportunity to work with local people to support the formation of health action groups, with strong emphasis on two-way communication and transparency in service delivery and complaints management.

While the Project Officer, Enterprises at the Pormpuraaw Community Council, Alan provided a framework for the viability of community and private enterprise establishment and sustainable development with a view to enhancing the economic environment and appropriate governing structures to nurture new enterprises.

(Approved by Alan on 17 November 2008).

## 7. General Member

### Myra Pincott AO



Mrs Myra Pincott AO, of Emu Park, has a long standing involvement as a health consumer and has been on a number of national and state committees and advisory bodies in the areas of health policy, planning and delivery as a consumer advocate. Myra has been a member of: her local District Health Council; Rural Health Advisory Council; National Rural Health Alliance; Qld Nursing Council Advisory Council; Qld Nursing Council Professional Conduct Tribunal; Qld Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Advisory Committee; Qld Dental Board; Consumer Advisory Council (Health Quality and Complaints Commission).

Myra comes to Health Consumers Qld with extensive experience to inform her representation, including as a past State and National President of the Country Women's Association. She also has considerable relevant experience as an aged care service provider and continues to demonstrate an active interest in the issues of rural women.

(Bio approved by Myra on 13 November 2008)

## 8. General Member

### Jeff Cheverton



Mr Jeff Cheverton is a Brisbane health consumer with a long history of working with communities to strengthen their capacity and to represent issues that affect: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities; people with a disability; young people; homeless people; people with mental health issues; and people with HIV / AIDS. Jeff has participated in a range of government and non-government initiatives responding to safeguarding the interests of marginalised people.

Jeff is a well-known and respected health consumer advocate. In his current role at Queensland Alliance and as a board member of Mental Health Council of Australia, he has played a key role in representing the interests of mental health consumers and community organisations.

Jeff is a member of a number of other boards of management of community, service and advocacy organisations, which have had considerable, positive impact on the lives of vulnerable and marginalised Queenslanders.

Jeff is published in the area of consumer engagement and has presented at conferences and professional associations.

(Bio approved from Jeff on 12 November 2008)

## 9. General Member

### Mary Martin



Ms Mary Martin, a Brisbane health consumer and registered nurse with extensive experience of the Queensland health system, is an Aboriginal lady from her Dad's county of Minjerriba in the Quandamooka region. She is a committed community representative on a range of health systems and health sector committees, advisory bodies and statutory authorities, including the Health Quality and Complaints Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee and the Queensland Health Rural Health Advisory Council.

Mary was presented with the inaugural *Lifetime Achievement National Excellence Award, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health* in November 2007. She has been an Honorary Member of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners since October 2006. Mary strives for continuous improvement of access to good quality, safe health services for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. She is especially interested in the health issues affecting rural and remote communities. Her contributions to the health and welfare of Aboriginal and Islander people are significant and longstanding.

The essence of Mary's approach has been to lead by example in implementing grassroots, 'coal face' education and training programs to holistically improve health care for and the psychological and cultural well-being of Indigenous Australians. These programs have helped to develop enhanced understanding of and commitment to the health and cultural needs of Indigenous Australians and improved practices by doctors and other health care professionals.

Mary was nominated for a position on the Ministerial Consumer Advisory Committee by the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council where she is the General Practice Education and Training Co-ordinator. She believes that if health systems can meet the needs of the sickest of sick, then the needs of the community at large will also be addressed.

(Bio approved by Mary on 29 September 2008)

## 10. General Member

### Agnes Whiten OAM



Ms Agnes Whiten OAM is a Brisbane health consumer with extensive experience in the Queensland health system. She was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for community service in the areas of multiculturalism and women's issues in 2002. A metallurgical engineer by profession, Agnes has worked for many years in Australia to develop and provide supports for Filipino Women migrating to Australia, as well as people from other culturally diverse backgrounds.

Agnes is currently the Chairperson of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland and has for many years held various positions on that organisation's Executive Committee. Agnes is actively involved with the Filipino community in Queensland and other women's groups and has had a long and active interest in the delivery of health services to Queenslanders of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Agnes has represented a range of community organisations and networks on government advisory bodies and committees, including the Ethnic Communities Council and was Foundation President of the Filipino Community Council of Queensland. She has worked with communities at a local level, and represented their issues to local, state and federal governments, including being a member of the first and second National Multicultural Community Councils. Agnes was the Chairperson of the Queensland Health Advisory Committee and a Member of the Queensland Women's Health Advisory Committee.

Agnes pioneered the role of Women's Advisor to the Catholic Archbishop of Brisbane, the first and only one in Australia.

(Bio approved by Agnes on 12 November 2008)

## 11. General Member

### Melissa Fox



Ms Melissa Fox is a Brisbane health consumer with extensive experience in the Queensland health system. She is a mother with 2 young children and an active community member with broad insight into the health system. Her particular interests are maternity services; child, reproductive and family health; disability; financially disadvantaged persons; rural and regional communities and people with impaired decision-making capacity.

Melissa is committed to improving the safety and quality of health services by serving on numerous hospital-based, government, national and professional committees. Amongst other appointments, Melissa is currently national Vice-President of the Maternity Coalition, consumer representative on the Mater Mothers Hospital's Clinical Governance Advisory Committee and Chair of the Australian College of Midwives Consumer Advisory Committee.

Melissa maintains a broad network and is involved in consumer capacity building activities through local opportunities in her community in inner-city Brisbane and her involvement with the Maternity Coalition.

(Bio approved by Ms Fox on 12 November 2008)

## 12. General Member

### Beryl Crosby



Ms Beryl Crosby is a Bundaberg health consumer with broad experience of the Queensland health system. She is well-known in Queensland as a staunch and fearless advocate for patients of the state's health system. This has come from her strong and active patient representation surrounding Bundaberg Hospital, where she is currently a member of the Health Community Council and President of the Bundaberg Hospital Patient Support Group. As a consumer advocate, Beryl has developed active and productive relationships with local, state and federal Government Members of Parliament to ensure the needs of the Patient Support Group were met, as well as the health care needs of the broader community.

Beryl was also a member of the inaugural Health Quality and Complaints Commission's Consumer Advisory Committee. With experience in representing consumer groups including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; culturally and linguistically diverse communities; rural, regional and remote Queenslanders; disability; financially disadvantaged; people with chronic illnesses and diseases; older persons; and families, Beryl has created opportunities to represent patient views and their real life experiences to health policy makers, at the local, state and national level, as necessary.

Beryl has been instrumental in bringing about important changes to Queensland health, including mandatory reporting.

(Bio approved by Beryl on 12 November 2008)

### 13. General Member

#### Odette Tewfik



Ms Odette Tewfik is a Brisbane health consumer with broad experience in the Queensland health system. She is affiliated with Family Planning Queensland and is currently a member of the Princess Alexandra Multicultural Steering Committee, Brisbane South Multicultural Advisory Group and Youth Affairs Network of Queensland (YANQ). She has a long involvement in women's issues, particularly from the perspective of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, having worked or volunteered in the areas of sexual assault, transcultural mental health, community education, youth homelessness, migrant support services, health promotion and domestic violence and as a member of the Ministerial Community Forum, Department of Communities last year.

Odette is well-known as an advocate for consumers' rights and has considerable expertise and experience in representing consumer groups, including: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders; rural, regional and remote; financially disadvantaged; people with a disability; people with chronic illness and disease; young and older people; the homeless; maternal and child health and people with impaired decision-making capacity. Part of her plan is to engage with media, including interviews with newspapers and ethnic radio.

Being a community health educator, who also supervises other bilingual community educators, Odette is able to advise, educate and promote health consumers awareness regarding their health rights and to encourage them to engage with the health system. In addition, she trains staff on how to approach their communities, promoting their facilitation skills and the building of consumer capacity. Odette has published articles about women's health needs, including female genital mutilation, in various health-related magazines and newsletters.

Odette has degrees in different areas such as Psychology and Philosophy, Economics and Administration Diplomas, a Business Management Degree (Industrial Relations and Information System) and certificates in community capacity and leadership building. She is also conversant in languages other than English, speaking (read and write) Arabic and some French, which facilitates her communication with consumers coming from these backgrounds.

(Bio approved by Odette on 12 August 2008)

## 14. General Member

### Sherry Kaurila



Ms Sherry Kaurila is a councillor with the Hinchinbrook Shire Council and resides in Ingham, North Queensland. She is also chairperson of the Townsville Health Community Council and a board member of the North Queensland Area Consultative Committee and the Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre. In addition, Sherry is a member of Canegrowers Queensland, the Mechanical Cane Harvesters Association and many other local networks. In 2006-2007, Sherry was named Hinchinbrook Shire Citizen of the Year for her tireless efforts on behalf of her local community. She has extensive knowledge and understanding of the nature, catchment and role of Townsville Health Services in the Queensland context from a health consumer's and community perspective and is responsive to the unique health care requirements of tropical North Queensland.