

Selection Criteria – Leadership Fellow Program

Sound experience working in the health sector in community, policy, government, or clinical.

I am an accredited, clinical social worker based in Gladstone, QLD. I have spent the past 10 years working across the human services sector, in various roles including but not limited to; domestic and family violence, early intervention, case management, crisis management, private practice and academia.

I am incredibly passionate and committed to the social work profession and have demonstrated this through my long working history as well as involvement in board member positions within the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) QLD Branch Committee and sub-committees. Between 2020 and 2022, I held board member positions with the AASW QLD Branch and co-facilitated the AASW First Nations and Allies sub-committee. Most recently, I have held fiduciary responsibilities for the Ethical Office and Cultural Advisor roles of the Play Therapy Practitioners Association. My commitment to my profession is demonstrated through the longevity of these volunteer roles.

I have deep social, professional, and cultural connections to the Gladstone region where I maintain a strong understanding of the challenges faced by our community in terms of politics, culture, and social issues. I have built and maintained strong professional and personal relationships with stakeholders across various sectors and aim to uphold my professional and personal reputation within this community.

Passionate, innovative, and ethical and working to improve Indigenous health outcomes.

In 2022 I was appointed the Ethics Officer for the Play Therapy Practitioners Association (PTPA), as well as the PTPA's Cultural Advisor. Whilst appointed to these roles, I engaged in the oversight of ethical practice standards of the Play Therapy association, as well as in improving outcomes for children and their families across Australia. I maintained both volunteer roles as a demonstration of my commitment and passion for social work practice and ensuring that First Nations families are receiving high quality care.

In my role as a social worker, I have taken great initiative to establish my own private practice whilst maintaining my volunteer roles with the AASW and PTPA. I have provided cultural oversight and supervision to the PTPA, as well as developing the first culturally responsive Masterclass for Play Therapy through the PTPA. I have also maintained a strong relationship with CQUniversity where I developed the course content for Reconciliation in the Workplace and Community. I will continue teaching with CQUniversity in 2024 where I will promote culturally responsive social work practice, especially in the political context of racism and post-referendum.

Motivated to build on your leadership, in your local context.

In addition to my ten years of working experience and academic background in the human services sector, I have demonstrated my interest in building on my leadership skills through engaging in consistent self-directed learning and professional development through tertiary education and clinical training opportunities. I have established two private practices in the past 5 years where I have drawn on transformational leadership principles and practices to exemplify Aboriginal self-determination in a regional Queensland community. As a clinical social worker, small business owner, and casual academic, I am responsible for upholding a high standard of clinical and governance practice as I continue to build a social work practice.

During my time as a Course Coordinator at CQUniversity, I was responsible for ensuring courses met the Australian Association of Social Work Education Accreditation Standards (ASWEAS) and wider strategic roadmap. My background in social work academia as well as clinical practice has laid a strong foundation for contributing to local and regional consultative processes such as the CQUniversity Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework, First Nations Chamber of Commerce and Central Queensland Consumer Network.

I have completed formal Clinical Governance training through the Australasian Institute of Clinical Governance and will commence a Master of Indigenous Business Leadership in 2024. The appointment of a board director will allow me to share my clinical and academic background with Roseberry QLD to oversee clinical governance and quality standards of practice.

Willingness to contribute to discussions and be challenged by diversity of thinking.

Social work demands ongoing critical reflection on my practice, use of self, and frameworks that guide clinical and non-clinical practice. I must examine my theoretical knowledge systems, understandings, and ways of knowing, being, and doing to challenge current practices and procedures that underpin my training as a Unit Coordinator at CQUniversity. Challenging unconscious bias, generalised thinking patterns, and stereotyping is a crucial part of my learning journey. I am committed to developing new knowledge systems and actively engaged in my learning journey. With interests in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, I use my experience and practice wisdom to explore how society continually changes.