



With you for life

**Board of Directors
Nominee
Information
2024**



Message from the Board Chair

BCH is an organisation that sits within many communities and strives to be responsive to the needs of those communities.

The development and growth of a professional, contemporary , skills-based board is continuing work for BCH.

The task of the Board of Directors is to drive the strategic agenda, advocate for and support the organisation to pursue opportunities for growth and relevance in an ever-changing operational landscape.

It is the Board's role to work closely with the CEO and Executive team to ensure that BCH continues to adapt to the changes required of organisations operating in a dynamic environment. Critically, the Board of Directors play a key role in ensuring that the strategic plan is both reflective of community needs and is actioned.

Delivery of services and programs to our clients is first and foremost when planning and whilst this is operational work it is essential that the Board of Directors create the environment where such decisions can be made and actioned.

I encourage you to read the candidate information carefully and cast your vote for the four candidates you believe will be best suited to the work ahead.

Fay Agterhuis
Board Chair

The following nominees are listed in alphabetical order by surname.

CANT, Sally

A seasoned and adaptable professional with 45 years of experience, I excel in diverse environments by fostering positive communication and bringing enthusiasm to my work. My expertise spans communications and public relations, both written and verbal, and I have successfully managed local and national programs for small and medium organisations.



I have extensive experience in the funeral industry, serving as an inaugural board member of the Funeral Industry Ministerial Advisory Council, along with significant involvement in the celebrant industry and other boards. I am a strong advocate for social justice, environmental sustainability, equity, and diversity, believing that diverse communities thrive when supported with inclusive approaches.

With excellent interpersonal skills, I build and maintain relationships at all levels.

As a sought-after speaker, MC, and group facilitator, I am known for problem-solving and ensuring projects meet deadlines, budgets, and contractual requirements. A collaborative team member, I inspire creativity and innovation, and I have held leadership roles on various committees and events. My decades of management experience, including business planning and market analysis, have driven successful business development and increased profitability.

COX, Leon

I am nominating to join the Board of Bellarine Community Health (BCH) as both a parent and a governance professional.

I am driven to be part of the solution in delivering improved health outcomes for the community my family lives in. My experience and participation in all aspects of good governance, working with boards, senior executives and professionals to enhance transparency and decision-making places me in a great position to add value to what you do.

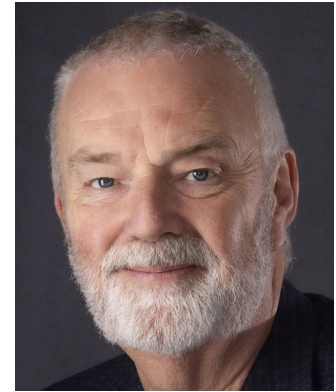


I will assist the Board of BCH in continuing to provide high quality and valued services to our community. My purpose is to make a positive contribution for all community members, ensuring that there are ample opportunities for us as directors to engage, allowing for meaningful dialogue to be shared with the organisation in assisting with strategy foresight and planning for a better future.

With the ever-changing population and shifting needs of the community it is critical to offer services that match. I look forward to being part of BCH future by bringing a perspective to the Board that aims to ensure that the scope of health services is appropriate for all people in our diverse community allowing us to thrive and prosper.

EDMONDS, Mark

I would love to join the Board of Bellarine Community Health (BCH). As a long-term resident of Ocean Grove, where I have lived for over 30 years, I have developed a deep connection with the local community. My involvement with the Ocean Grove Business Association, Ocean Grove Connected Communities, and the Ocean Grove Park reflects my commitment to enhancing the well-being and vibrancy of the region.



With over 26 years of Non-Executive Board experience, I bring a wealth of governance expertise to this role. I have served on several boards, working across sectors such as community services, and the environment. I am also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), further underscoring my dedication to sound governance principles and leadership.

My experience in community engagement, strategic planning, and board-level decision-making would be highly beneficial to BCH. I am passionate about the health and well-being of the Bellarine Peninsula community, and I believe that my skills and local knowledge would contribute positively to the organization's mission. I am eager to support BCH in delivering high-quality health services to our community.

FARRELL, Jan

An Ocean Grove resident for over thirty years, I have volunteered with numerous community groups, schools, sporting clubs and business associations.



My career as a small business consultant included eleven years as a Finance Officer and working within a broad range of services and industries across Geelong and the Bellarine. I represented Bellarine residents on Greater Geelong council for three terms.

I have a long-term commitment to supporting the community, particularly young people, to improve their health and resilience, as demonstrated by my engagement with many peak bodies and service providers. My previous Board roles have included G21, Youth Affairs Council Victoria, YouthLaw, Potato Shed, Municipal Association of Victoria, Geelong Region LLEN, Ocean Grove Connected Communities and Bellarine Training and Community Hub.

I am highly skilled in governance philosophies and practices, financial reporting and performance assessment, risk management, statutory requirements and legal frameworks. I understand the need for client and stake-holder engagement, along with respectful community consultation in decision-making processes. I value the separate roles of the Board and management team, and I also recognise that a Board needs to focus on its

HARRIS, Mark

Living in Ocean Grove for the last 25 years, I have had an association with BCH since 2007, the last 3 years as a Board Director.

I have worked as a local Clinician and as a Health Manager here for over 30 years. Through this experience, I have acquired an invaluable knowledge of our local health services, which I use at BCH to inform better board decisions. I believe in strong business governance as the foundation for better care and I always advocate strongly to provide the best possible health care to our community.

I continue to work in Ocean Grove as a practising Physiotherapist, as a volunteer Counsellor and as a Deakin lecturer in Population Health, so I understand firsthand the importance of a focus on the real healthcare needs of our wonderful Bellarine Community. I believe my extensive board experience and qualifications with Honours Degrees in Science, Physiotherapy and a Master of Business Administration, will continue to add to the exceptional skills of the current board at BCH.

I am a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and currently studying for a Diploma in Mental Health Counselling at Bellarine Training & Community Hub.



SIMMS, Lucy

I am seeking re-election to the Board of Bellarine Community Health following a rewarding three-year term as a Director. During this time, I have developed a deep understanding of the organisation's needs and challenges, as well as the health requirements of the Bellarine community.

I bring a broad skill set to the Board, with over 15 years of professional experience spanning engineering, property, infrastructure, and housing. I am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and currently work as an executive for a Community Housing Organisation. In addition to my governance role with BCH, I serve as a Director on a not-for-profit Project Company Board responsible for delivering nearly 1,400 homes across Melbourne, including market, social, affordable, and disability accommodation.

As someone who grew up on the Bellarine Peninsula, I have a strong connection to the community and a deep commitment to its future. I am passionate about the environment, which aligns with my role as Chair of the BCH Sustainability Committee. I hope to continue serving as Deputy Chair and contributing to Bellarine Community Health's ongoing growth and success.

I am dedicated to ensuring that the Board continues to support the well-being of our staff and our community. I would be honoured to serve for another term.



SOGGEE, Samantha

I am committed to serving the South West Victorian Community.

I am an experienced healthcare executive with almost 20 years of experience in healthcare. I have worked across the health sector in hospitals as well as community NGO's such as the Leukaemia Foundation as a National Coordinator for rare cancers.



I have experience in governance, organisational structure and models of care and best practice standards in healthcare such as the NSQHS. It would be a privilege to serve on the Board of Bellarine Community Health and utilise my knowledge and experience to contribute to the growth, governance and quality of BCH and improve the service provision for the community it serves. I have extensive experience in the operational running of a health service and serving our community through ensuring access to healthcare, community support for NDIS clients both in the hospital and in the community including engaging service providers and the NOIA. I also oversee the Aboriginal Health Unit and understand cultural awareness for our first nations people. I was involved in the collaboration and start-up of the Priority Primary Care Centre in Geelong as well as in service redesign of specialist outpatient clinics, Medical Workforce Unit.

I am community minded and have previously volunteered for a soup kitchen and am an active donor to Australian Conservation Foundation and am volunteering as a citizen scientist for the Hooded Plover breeding season. I am dedicated to our community in the South West Region and plan on being here for many years to come. BCH plays a key role in serving the community resident on the Bellarine Peninsula. I don't see any competition between Barwon Health and BCH as they have complementary roles in the health system. I think our community is best served by having strong independent community health services such as BCH, and strong regional health services such as BH.

TODD, Virginia

As a resident in Queenscliff for eight years, and recently retired, I am excited to nominate for Board Director of Bellarine Community Health (BHC). I believe BCH is a highly respected and essential community health provider for the Bellarine community.

I served for 9 years as board director for Barwon Health and chaired the Primary Care and Population Health Committee for 6 years.



I would like to offer expertise in professional strategic planning, policy development and governance, skills that I have gained through decades of public service experience and community leadership.

In my professional career I worked as a senior manager in the Victorian Public Service for 26 years on community strengthening programs, youth services, partnership brokering across State, Commonwealth and Local governments for collaborative urban growth area planning, urban revitalisation in central Geelong and to deliver major infrastructure projects.

I have a good understanding of local government, having been a Councillor and Mayor for the former City of Geelong West and Manager of Human Services at Moorabool Shire. I have time, energy and enthusiasm to make a meaningful contribution to what I consider to be the key to the future of effective health services delivery.

strategic plan and the organisation's accountability, all the while operating within the framework of its Charter.

WALSH, Tim

I seek re-election to BCH board to ensure BCH remains a stable viable provider of health services on the Bellarine. I wish to ensure BCH develops responsive services and plays a vital role in enhancing the health and wellbeing of all age groups across the Bellarine.



I wish to use my knowledge and experience developed over 40 years in the public health sector. I have been CEO of Community Health Services in metropolitan Melbourne and was involved in the amalgamation of Community Health Services with Southern Health (now Monash Health); Executive Officer at VHA, responsible for Community Health and small rural hospitals; Member of Ministerial Review into Community Health in mid-80's; Member of VAADA and Board of South East PCP (Peak body of Alcohol and Drug Service); General Manager of South East Alcohol and Drugs Services.

Extensive Board experience in both public and private sector including Chairman of Harness Racing Board, Board Member of TAB and Radio 3UZ (now RSN). Chairperson of YCW Holdings.

I maintain my community engagement and commitment with my role as a Board Member of Bellarine Community Health Services, Board Member of Lions Village and Lions Club Portarlington/Drysdale.

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