

2020 Nomination for NFP Elected Director Queensland Alliance for Mental Health (QAMH) Ltd Board Nominee Statement – Tom Ryan, Chair, selectability

1. What Board Experience do you have?

I have decades of Board experience at local and national levels. I have chaired selectability, a very successful North Queensland NFP (formerly SOLAS and then merged with MIFNQ) for 20 years. I have been a board member of Mental Illness Fellowship Australia for about a decade and I have recently completed my constitutionally permitted 6 year term as a Director of the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses, finishing that term as Chair, Vice President and acting President. I also chair selectability training, a niche education provider in the sector with a focus on peer workers.

I was co-founder and board member of the Australian Clinical Supervision Association for several years and am now a Life Member of that organisation. I inaugurated and chaired the Clinical Supervision section of the ACMHN.

I chair the ACMHN North Queensland Branch and the National Psychotherapy section of the ACMHN.

I am a member of AICD and have completed their 'flagship' company directors' course and many other governance courses and I have a commitment to continuing that learning.

2. What experience in and knowledge of the Community Based Mental Health Sector do you have?

I have 42 years of experience in mental health at various levels including community mental health nursing roles, Director of Area Mental health Services, Nursing Director, Not For Profit board roles and currently Primary Care Liaison and psychotherapy. As a psychotherapist in public practice I work entirely with people who experience severe and complex trauma issues. I have participated at local and national level in policy formation, Federal level consultation and expert advice.

I am actively involved at local and national level in promoting a voice for people with mental distress and their carers, as well as improving community and clinical infrastructure in mental health and suicide prevention. I take every opportunity available to promote the role of people with lived experience in influencing and providing care.

3. What networks and relationships do you have outside the Community Based Mental Health Sector to assist QAMH in raising the awareness within the general and business communities of the value of the Sector to the Community as a whole?

I have strong relationships with leadership figures in politics and to a lesser extent business, and very good networks within the broader health community, including GPs, Private Hospitals and health service administration. selectability has made a point of nurturing relationships with business and I am very involved in that in partnership with our CEO, Managers and Board.

4. What partnerships/relationships do you have within the Community Based Mental Health Sector to assist QAMH to promote sector-wide development and co-operation in response to the significant system challenges facing the Sector now and into the future?

I have strong presence and good recognition within the Community Based Mental Health Sector, in particular but not exclusively in North Queensland through my various NFP roles and my Hospital and Health Service position as Mental Health Primary Care Liaison. I am recognized as a leader and influencer in my profession of Mental Health Nursing and widely respected in the broader community. I am in daily contact with a broad range of public, private and NFP providers and I believe I enjoy the trust of consumer groups.

5. *Other Skills?*

As an experienced Director and Board Chair I am good at contributing to consensus, encouraging diversity and understanding dissent. As a practicing clinician I would not claim expertise in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures but I think I am acknowledged as someone who will listen and shows respect. I have certainly worked, I hope effectively, with indigenous and rural and remote issues, as one would expect of a North Queensland practitioner. My practice as a very experienced psychotherapist and supervisor has equipped me with an ability to listen compassionately, assist with reflection and appreciate diversity which extends well beyond that practice. That particularly extends to LGBTQIA issues.