

Board Member Elect Profiles

Aaron Crowther

I have over 20 years working in marketing and communications and over a decade working at senior levels of leadership in a cross section of organisation, both large and small, but also commercial and not for profit. In the last 12 months I have been on the Board of DSWA, as a co-opted member, I am accepting this nomination because I know I have much more to give, specifically in helping guide strategy, fundraising, public relations and stakeholder engagement, all key to helping the organisation navigate its environment and reach its potential. I believe strongly in the vision of DSWA and accept this is a privilege and responsibility to help the organisation in its mission providing for the Down syndrome community – those with Down Syndrome and their families and support networks. If offered the continued opportunity to contribute to the board, I will do so with focus on good governance and passion for outcomes, drawing on my skills and networks to set the organisation up for continued success, I see the potential for DSWA to continue evolving and adding value based on current programs, but also future innovations that will help strengthen its membership. Continuity in support the CEO is also important to me as DSWA sustains its capacity building efforts.

Jason King

I am honoured to be nominated for the board of the Down Syndrome Association of WA. As a dedicated parent of a 20-year-old daughter with Down syndrome, I bring firsthand experience and deep empathy to the role.

Over the past 12 months, I have been fortunate enough to participate as a board member of the Down Syndrome Association of WA, actively contributing to our mission of “supporting a life of possibilities” for people with Down syndrome.

My extensive background in leadership and project/program management roles within corporate environments has equipped me with strategic planning, leadership, and organisational skills essential for driving impactful initiatives. I am committed to advocating for and supporting individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

Nia Parker

I have been fortunate to Chair the Down Syndrome WA Board of Management for the past two years and in that time have overseen significant change to our organisation.

Our membership continues to grow, and the funding challenges remain, requiring the Board to be more strategic in its approach to service delivery and future planning. We have worked hard to bring our governance and financial reporting into line with government, NDIS and other reporting bodies' requirements.

I now am a member of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Disability, a position which is helping grow DSWA's profile within the sector. I am continuing to network with other disability information and advocacy groups, helping to keep me abreast of the ongoing developments, particularly in regard to government funding and legislative changes which may affect us as an organisation.

Together with our CEO, I have been very active in pursuing information on Down Syndrome Regression Disorder and helping drive the work that now sees DSWA taking the National Lead in this area of interest.

It is my hope that I can be elected for another Term to the Board so as to continue serving the Association, helping DSWA support a life of possibility for all people with Down Syndrome, and their families.

James Shaddick

My name is James Shaddick and I am keen to be a member of the DSWA Board. I was co-opted onto the Board last year and have been an active contributor, including helping redesign the Strategy Plan. I have lived and worked in three states (Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland) before moving to Western Australia. My career has mainly been in the environment and agriculture (farming) sectors and I have worked for small not-for-profits, a university and government. In these roles, I have done lots of work that will help DSWA. I led teams of people, developed and reported on strategies, wrote successful funding submissions and coordinated reporting on those, written organisational policy, helped manage organisational risk, developed strong partnerships with Government, universities and community to deliver projects and have done so in a financially responsible ways with good governance. I'm very excited to continue to learn more about Down syndrome and to use my skills to help out the amazing community that surrounds DSWA.

Kelly Wake

I am excited and honoured to re-nominate as Board Member for DSWA.

I currently hold the position of Secretary however I am happy to represent the membership in any capacity. I am a proud mother of three adult children with our oldest son Brayden living with Down Syndrome. We have had the benefit of the Employment Services provided by DSWA for the last 2 years which has seen our son progress from a part time position at the now disbanded Active Industries in Bentley to a valued full-time worker in open employment in his local community. This has been a most satisfying and wonderful experience which could only have been achieved with the hard work of the DSWA and we are very grateful for the help and support provided. I am very happy to offer any support to the association to assist the amazing outcomes that can be achieved for our members.

I am currently the HR/OHS Compliance Manager for WA's leading Bedding retailer with 12 Retail and 4 Warehousing and Logistics outlets in the Perth CBD. I look forward to continuing to contribute to your Board and Organisation through my lived experience with Down Syndrome and my professional experience and knowledge in several of the key business areas using my 10+ year career in human resources, industrial relations, and OHS/ regulatory compliance if re-elected.

I feel my last 2 years on the board have afforded me the opportunity to truly understand the importance of our board and how it can assist in the important work of DSWA.

I look forward to making a meaningful contribution and assisting the board in its common goal to focus on the members and the sustainability and growth of DSWA, if re-elected.

Hayley Warren

I am interested in joining the board (or continuing my position as a Board Member) as I hope to make a valuable contribution to the Association as it continues to strengthen its financial position (in a challenging funding environment) while also continuing and building on its service offering.

I have had an interest in Down syndrome from a very young age as I grew up with an older sister, Sarah, who has Down Syndrome. Whilst it wasn't always easy in a country town, my parents fought to give my sister the same opportunities as her three siblings, including access to inclusive education and later on, employment in her local community. Having grown up in Margaret River I would like to explore gaps in the Association's services in regional and remote areas and explore the potential for us to increase our reach in those areas, where financially feasible.

I have previously held positions on the Board of Down Syndrome NSW and Down Syndrome Australia including as Chair of Down Syndrome NSW from 2019-2021. I have also been the coordinator of Aim High in Subiaco and Up! Club (East) in Sydney.

I am a lawyer, with 13 years' experience working in the areas of insurance, construction, commercial and corporate law.

I would be honored to again be considered for a position on the Down Syndrome WA Board in 2024.