

## CANDIDATE BRIEF

<b>DATE</b>	April 2021
<b>POSITION TITLE</b>	Non-Executive Director
<b>COMPANY</b>	Amnesty International Australia (AIA)
<b>REMUNERATION</b>	Directors are not remunerated
<b>MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENT</b>	All directors must be members of AIA

### **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA (AIA)**

Amnesty International is an independent global movement that campaigns courageously for human rights for everyone.

In Australia, AIA is one of the largest not-for-profit organisations in the social justice sector. It comprises ordinary people from all walks of life, standing together for justice, freedom, human dignity and equality. The organisation uses passion and commitment to bring torturers to justice, change oppressive laws and free people imprisoned just for voicing their opinion.

AIA is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and this ensures that the organisation can speak out on human rights abuses wherever they occur. Every day, AIA helps to move the world closer to a point where human rights are enjoyed by all.

### **THE NATIONAL BOARD**

The Board provides leadership and governance for AIA. The Board's main functions are to:

- Ensure effective leadership and stewardship of the organisation;
- Promote and ensure the effective performance of the organisation;
- Set and assess the objectives and standards by which the organisation is governed;
- Monitor the financial, ethical, legal and regulatory performance of the organisation;
- Appoint the National Director and hold them accountable for the organisation's performance;
- Provide links and leadership within the Amnesty International movement.

The Board is governed by a [Board Charter](#) and its powers are detailed in the organisation's [Constitution](#).

The Committees of AIA are:

- The Activism and Membership Committee
- The Audit and Risk Committee
- The Governance Committee
- The International Issues Committee
- The Nomination and Assessment Committee

## **BOARD COMPOSITION**

The Board can have a maximum of **nine** directors who are identified and elected according to a set of capabilities, attributes and diversity as detailed in the [AIA National Board Attributes Statement](#).

**Seven** directors are elected by the members in General Meeting and up **two** additional directors can be appointed by the Board. The current composition of the Board is as follows:

### **Mario Santos, Chair**

Mario has been an Amnesty activist since 2000. He holds a Master of Human Rights Law and has 20 years of commercial and senior management experience. He joined the Board in 2018 and became Chair in early 2020.

### **Gabe Kavanagh, Director**

Gabe has been on the Board since 2011 and an Amnesty activist since 2004. Gabe formerly chaired the Board up until early 2020. Gabe works at United Voice and holds a Bachelor of International Studies, Political Economy and Government and a Juris Doctor.

### **Vicki Jacobs, Director**

Vicki has been a member of Amnesty for over two decades and has previously served as Branch President and Regional Representative. Vicki works as a public servant in the health sector. Vicki's term ends at the 2021 AGM.

### **Lisa Annese, Director**

Lisa is the CEO of Diversity Council Australia and was named by AFR as one of Australia's 100 Women of Influence. She is also the recipient of a public centenary medal for her work on gender equality.

### **Michael Dundon, Director**

Michael is the CEO of VicSuper, a public offer Profit to Member Super fund since 2011. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant with extensive experience in governance, finance and risk management. He chairs the Audit and Risk Committee.

### **Saras Suresh Kumar, Director**

Saras has held leadership positions in the SA/NT region since 2013. She works in the environmental movement as a company director and staff for the social enterprise Conservation Management.

### **Cassandra Seery, Director**

Cassandra joined the National Board in 2020 and began her journey with Amnesty in 2014. She is an experienced legal and social policy professional specialising in Indigenous and children's rights. Cassandra filled a vacancy at the 2020 AGM, and her term accordingly ends at the 2021 AGM.

### **Ajoy Ghosh, Director**

Ajoy is a Chief Information Security Officer and digital forensics expert and lecturer, advising on the governance of emerging technologies such as cyber security, cloud, big data and artificial intelligence. He was appointed to the Board in early 2020 as an additional director. Ajoy was appointed until the 2021 AGM.

## CANDIDATES NOMINATING FOR ELECTION AS DIRECTORS AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON 3 JULY 2021

This year there are **two** directors to be elected, both in Class III for a term of three years.

To ensure the right mix of knowledge and experience on the National Board the Nomination and Assessment Committee (NAC) is seeking candidates who satisfy the capabilities, attributes and diversity of our National Board Attributes Statement.

The National Board has indicated that it particularly needs directors with the following skills or attributes (in no particular order of priority):

- Technology, Digital and Data Analytics
- Fundraising
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
- Culturally and linguistically diverse, including people of colour and people from refugee or asylum seeker backgrounds

The nomination approach will involve:

1. Completion of the [online form](#) which includes a self-assessment against the attributes statement
2. Submission of a resume with the online form - see the resume guide available on our [website](#)
3. Submission of a nomination online form, available on our [website](#)

Upon receipt of nominations the NAC's assessment of candidates will involve:

- video interviewing
- reference checking

An assessment of nominations by the NAC will be conducted and put to General Meeting Voters ahead of the Annual General Meeting on 3 July 2021.

Nominations open today for directors of the National Board and will remain open until **Monday 3 May 2021**.

If you are not currently a member of AI Australia or your membership has lapsed you can still nominate as a director by applying for membership using the following link; <https://action.amnesty.org.au/membership>. Again, the deadline for a membership application will be **Monday 3 May 2021**.

Candidates should ensure they are familiar with the following information:

- Candidate Brief (this document);
- [National Board Attributes Statement](#); and
- [Board Charter](#).

As Amnesty International Australia meets existing and new human rights challenges, it is critical for the directors of the National Board to provide skilled leadership in meeting the movement's strategic goals. If you believe you have the skills, attributes and motivation to join the AI Australia National Board and support the movement we encourage you to submit a nomination.

If you have any questions please contact the NAC Chair, Kate Waterford on [kate.waterford@amnesty.org.au](mailto:kate.waterford@amnesty.org.au) or 0432 333 067.

### **TIME COMMITMENT**

The National Board meets monthly with seven meetings being of two hours duration in the evening via videoconference and the remaining meetings occurring over a day on the weekend.

The Board's primary form of communication between meetings is via telephone and email. To participate fully and effectively as a director, candidates need to be able to read and respond to calls and emails at least once in every 48 hours.

It is also expected that directors engage fully in the work of committees including undertaking the role of committee chair where so appointed. Committees typically hold at least five meetings each year.