

Candidate Statement – Allyson Smith

I have been a social worker for 22 years, working across government, community services and private practice. I previously served seven years on the Tasmanian Branch Management Committee, including as Branch President. After some years away, I returned to the BMC and stepped into the President role nine months ago.

During my current term as President, I have focused on strengthening the presence of the AASW in Tasmania, increasing member engagement and creating more opportunities for Tasmanian social workers to connect, contribute and have a voice within their professional association.

A particular highlight has been leading the 2026 Tasmanian Social Work Symposium, which brought together almost 100 social workers, students and allied health professionals for a day of learning, conversation and connection. For me, the Symposium demonstrated that while Tasmania may be small, we can be mighty when we come together with a collective professional voice.

I believe strongly in the importance of active, connected Branches within a member-based organisation. I am also supportive of the changes occurring nationally within the AASW and the direction established through the Board's Blueprint for Change, and I want to continue contributing to that change from a Tasmanian perspective.

As I step away from the President role, I would like to continue as an ordinary BMC member, supporting the transition to new Branch leadership while continuing to strengthen member engagement, raise the profile of social work across Tasmania and ensure Tasmanian social workers have meaningful opportunities to contribute to broader professional conversations.

I remain committed to helping build a strong, active and sustainable Tasmanian Branch that represents and connects social workers across our state.