

Candidate Statement for AASW Tas Branch Committee

My name is Janet Ullinger, and I am a Level 3 hospital social worker with a strong commitment to supporting the health and wellbeing of rural and remote communities. I currently work for the Tasmanian Health Service in the Northwest, where I continue to develop my practice in a regional health setting and contribute to responsive, person-centred care.

Before completing my Bachelor of Social Work through Edith Cowan University while living in regional Western Australia as a single mother, I completed a Bachelor of Social Science with electives in Law and Management in public and not-for-profit organisations. I also completed a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychology. These studies have given me a broad foundation in governance, systems, human behaviour, and ethical practice.

I moved to Tasmania in 2022 after working with the Western Australian Country Health Service as a locum hospital social worker across country communities. This experience deepened my understanding of the strengths and complexities of small, close-knit communities, including the significance of Aboriginal family connection to kin and Country. It also reinforced for me the importance of psychosocial and biopsychosocial factors in shaping health outcomes.

In my recent role on the Tas Branch Member Committee, I contributed to the planning of the Tas Branch Symposium by assisting with venue logistics and reviewing workshop presenters. On the day, I had the pleasure of introducing keynote speaker and Churchill Fellow Jody Bell. I have also recently taken on the role of Networking Lead, working with members across the state to strengthen connection, collaboration, and professional identity. If elected, I would bring practical regional experience, committee involvement, and a strong commitment to promoting the AASW Code of Ethics, practice standards, and the value of social work across Tasmania.