

AASW North Queensland Branch President Candidate Statement – Krys Bickley

As a new graduate with 15 years of experience in the human services sector, I bring a unique combination of established leadership and contemporary insight to the role of Branch President. I am committed to strengthening our local branch by building on the work of those who came before us, fostering critical reflection, and supporting the future of social work practice within appropriate legislative and professional frameworks.

My vision is to create a vibrant, inclusive, and engaged branch where all members, from students to experienced practitioners, feel connected, valued, and supported. Social work is evolving rapidly, and our branch must continue to adapt while maintaining the values that underpin our profession.

A key priority will be strengthening member connection and professional solidarity. I want to move beyond transactional communication and create meaningful opportunities for engagement through regular networking events, peer-led learning circles, and open forums that encourage diverse perspectives. By utilising both digital platforms and local gatherings, we can better connect members across regional, rural, and urban communities. A connected membership creates a stronger collective voice for our profession.

I am also passionate about fostering reflective practice and constructive dialogue. Our branch should provide safe and courageous spaces where members can explore emerging issues in practice, question outdated approaches, and work collaboratively to develop innovative solutions. Through this approach, we can address challenges such as workforce burnout, advocate for sustainable workloads, and strengthen ethical, evidence-informed practice.

As President, I will lead with integrity, transparency, and accountability. I am committed to working collaboratively with the National Board to advance AASW strategic priorities and ensure our branch's governance, advocacy, and financial management meet the highest standards.

The future of social work requires both respect for our profession's history and a willingness to embrace change. My professional experience enables me to engage effectively with policymakers and sector leaders, while my recent academic journey keeps me connected to contemporary research and the experiences of emerging practitioners. Together, we can build a strong, connected, and forward-looking North Queensland Branch.