

Candidate Statement – Kathleen Audrey Browne



I am nominating myself for the position of Board Member of the Australian Association of Social Workers, New South Wales Branch, because I believe social work must remain connected to the lived realities of individuals, families and communities.

As a social worker, NDIS Registered Provider, support coordinator, coach and author, I bring professional experience across disability, family support, advocacy, systems navigation and community services. I also bring lived experience as an immigrant, an apartheid survivor, a homicide survivor and a parent of an adult child with disability. These experiences have shaped my commitment to practical, respectful and solution-focused social work.

I believe social workers need a strong professional voice, meaningful support, ethical leadership and opportunities to influence the systems in which we work. Members should feel represented by an organisation that listens to their experiences, recognises the pressures of contemporary practice and advocates for the value of social work across all sectors.

If elected, I would contribute a practical, collaborative and grounded perspective to the Branch Management Committee. I would support initiatives that strengthen professional identity, promote accessible professional development, encourage honest discussion about workplace challenges and highlight the contribution social workers make to individuals, families and communities.

My guiding principle is: I believe leadership should be informed by experience, integrity, accountability and a willingness to listen. I would be honoured to serve AASW members in New South Wales and contribute to a profession that is confident, respected, inclusive and focused on positive change.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Browne".

Kathleen Browne