



CURRIVULUM VITAE

Gregory (Greg) Richard Rusha

BSW (Curtin), JP (WA), MAASW (Accredited)

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

I have dedicated almost 4 decades to the social work profession, driven by a deep belief in human dignity, social justice, and the power of connected communities. My career has spanned metro, regional and remotes areas across Qld, South Australia and WA including times in the Pilbara and Kimberley. With roles encompassing senior executive and clinical leadership in regional health and community organisations.

Throughout my journey, giving back through active volunteering and grassroots community development has always been central to who I am. Whether mentoring local seniors to navigate the online world through the *Be Connected* program, coordinating public engagement for the *Darlington Arts Festival*, facilitating non-violence workshops in prisons, or serving our justice system as a Justice of the Peace, I believe leadership needs to be grounded through extensive community connection.

As a long-standing AASW member, WA Branch Vice President, trained supervisor, and current branch committee member, I care deeply about the future of our profession and expanding our membership. I bring to the Board extensive governance and financial management experience, alongside a grounded voice deeply attuned to diversity, the unique challenges of regional and remote practice, and the everyday needs of social workers.

OVERVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL CAPABILITIES

- **Governance & Board Operations:** Policy development, constitutional adherence, regulatory compliance, risk management, and committee leadership.
- **Financial & Resource Stewardship:** Budget formulation and oversight (\$ multi-million programs across 15 sites), tender management, contract delivery, and workforce planning.
- **Strategic & Clinical Leadership:** Initiating and scaling high-impact initiatives (e.g., the ALIVE suicide intervention program and state-wide anti-violence programs).
- **Supervision & Workforce Development:** Decades of mentoring social work students, private practitioner supervision, and leading professional development.
- **Cultural Safety & Inclusive Practice:** Extensive on-the-ground engagement with Aboriginal and TSI communities, trauma-informed systemic practice, and LGBTQIA+ advocacy.

GOVERNANCE & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- **Vice President** | AASW Branch Management Committee WA | 2024 – Present
- **Volunteer Consultant** | A Dose of Grief unit creation - Melbourne University | 2025 - Present
- **Wheatbelt Networking Group Member** | AASW | 2025 – Present

GOVERNANCE & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS cont...

- **Justice of the Peace** | Department of Justice WA | 2020 – Present
- **Deputy Chair** | Midland Royal Association of Justices | 2022 – 2025
- **Digital Mentor** | Be Connected Program (Boya, Carnarvon, Exmouth) | 2019-Present
- **Chairperson** | Alternatives to Violence Project WA (AVPWA) | 2015 – 2017
- **Public Relations Coordinator** | Darlington Arts Festival | 2014-2016
- **BMC Member** | AASW Western Australia Branch | 2004 – 2006
- **Chairperson** | WA Family Therapy Association | 2008-2012
- Prior to 2005 also had volunteer positions with:
 - **Federal State Emergency Relief Committee** (1987-88);
 - **Youth Accommodation Services Geraldton**;
 - **Wheatbelt Men's Health Pitstop Program** (2004-2006);
 - **Chronic Fatigue self-help Group**

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Private Practitioner & Clinical Supervisor | *Self-Employed* | **1993 – Present**

- Deliver psychotherapy, trauma intervention (EMDR) and Family Therapy through private therapeutic practice.
- Provide professional, clinical, and reflective supervision to social workers, allied health professionals, and community sector leaders.

Senior Social Worker | *Swan Community Mental Health Clinic* | **2010 – 2018**

- Senior clinical leader coordinating high-complexity care within a team, caseload environment exceeding 350 mental health clients; provided clinical oversight and crisis escalation management.

Coordinator – ALIVE Suicide Intervention Program | *Division of General Practice* | **2008 – 2010**

- Researched, designed, and launched a pioneering suicide prevention and intervention service building strong partnerships with GPs and mental health services. The model was later successfully adapted and is still used across four regions today.

General Manager – Relationship Services | *Anglicare WA* | **2005 – 2008**

- Held full operational, financial, and strategic accountability for 6 major family and community service programs across 15 regional and metropolitan sites.
- Led competitive tendering, contract compliance, multi-site workforce leadership, and service quality frameworks.

Senior Social Worker & Department Head | *Avon Health Service* | **2002 – 2005**

- Established, staffed, and supervised the regional Social Work service (3 social workers, 1 welfare officer), embedding quality assurance systems for inpatient and outpatient teams.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY cont...

Primary Health Manager | Avon Health Service | 1998 – 2002

- Governed integrated allied and community health budgets, staffing, and regional service delivery across primary health and GP networks.

Senior Social Worker & Manager (acting) | Department of Social Security (DSS) | 1991 – 1994

- *Manager (DSS)*: Led 2 district offices with 70 multi-disciplinary staff, managing budgets, statutory service delivery, and community outreach.
- *Aboriginal Needs Research (DSS Berri, SA)*: Conducted landmark field research examining Aboriginal community needs, authoring a comprehensive 10,000-word policy report based on direct community consultation.

TAFE Lecturer | Karratha TAFE | 1988 -1989 & Geraldton TAFE | 1989-1990

- Taught on Communications, Politics, Sociology, Group / Team Work and Welfare Studies

Senior Social Worker | Family & Children's Services | 1987 – 1990

- Led and supervised a community development team of 5 (Tom Price & Pannawonica)
- *Officer-in-Charge (Pilbara - Roebourne)*: Supervised a team within child protection and juvenile justice and consulting on the ground with Indigenous Elders.

EDUCATION & FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS

- **Bachelor of Social Work (BSW)** – Curtin University (1986)
- **Management Development Program** – Edith Cowan University (1991)
- **Workplace Training Category 3 (Cert IV equivalency)** – TAFE WA (1997)
- **EMDR Level 1 & Level 2 Accreditation** – Graham Taylor (1998 & 2005)
- **Rural Mental Health Assessment & Treatment** – Health Department WA (2000)
- **Health Promotion Certification** – Curtin University (2001)
- **Postgrad Certificate in Health Service Management** – Edith Cowan University (2002)
- **Authorised Mental Health Practitioner** – Office of the Chief Psychiatrist WA (2011)
- **Accredited AVP Lead Facilitator** – Alternatives to Violence Project (2017)
- **Justice of the Peace Appointment** – The Honourable Kim Beazley Governor WA (2020)

References

References available upon request