

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

Aged Rights Advocacy Service (SA) Board: Non-Executive Director (Volunteer position)

The Aged Rights Advocacy Service (SA) ([ARAS](#)) is an independent not-for-profit organisation established in 1990.

We provide free advocacy, information, and education to older South Australians. Established in response to the Chris Ronalds report (Residents' rights in nursing homes and hostels), which led to a national advocacy framework, ARAS started with two Advocates and has grown to a team of 54 staff, with offices in Dulwich, Berri, Nuriootpa, and Victor Harbor. ARAS is the South Australian member of the Older Persons Advocacy Network (OPAN), delivering the National Aged Care Advocacy Program (NACAP). As a national network, OPAN supported over 44,400 older Australians in 2023-24.

We advocate for the rights of older people by providing submissions, speaking at Parliamentary Committees, engaging in consultations, and addressing the media on various issues affecting its clients, ensuring the voices of older people are heard and represented.

We played a significant role in supporting older people during the Royal Commission into Aged Quality Care Quality and Safety. The Commission recommended enhanced advocacy services and a process for determining the extent of unmet demand, which resulted in increased funding to services such as ARAS.

We are supported by a dedicated and volunteer board, chaired by Anne Burgess AM, Anne's leadership is supported by board members who have experience and skills in multicultural ageing, LGBTIQ+ rights, First Nations communities, law, human rights, and finance, and expertise in health and governance.

Our staff are led by Chief Executive Carolanne Barkla. Our Advocates are qualified professionals with degrees in social work, law, psychology, social sciences, management, and accounting.

Our diverse team includes Aboriginal Advocates, who provide culturally safe and appropriate supports, and regional staff who provide local knowledge and insights.

Our staff are trained to respond to people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and interpreters are available free of cost.

Key requirements:

- knowledge, experience and a commitment to excellence in governance and positive board culture
- demonstrated skills in leadership, stakeholder relationships, financial competency, strategic planning and communication
- relevant knowledge and expertise including advocacy, aged care, information technology and / or marketing
- sincere motivation and commitment to contribute to the governance of ARAS and to make a tangible difference in improving the lives of older people
- AICD qualifications and / or experienced legal background will be viewed favourably but are not essential, depending on experience

- time to contribute actively to regular Board meetings (7-8 per year) and sub-committee involvement. Board and sub-committee meetings are held during office hours.

This is an opportunity to contribute to the strategic direction of ARAS, at a time when the rights and quality of life of the older person is prominent in the minds and hearts of the community.

Applications from people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Specific requirements:

- must have or be able to obtain a Directors Identification Number (DIN)
- National Police Clearance (less than 12 months old)
- COVID-19 vaccination and current Influenza vaccination is mandatory
- whilst a Board member of ARAS you are not permitted to be employed by or hold a directorship, paid or unpaid, of any approved aged care provider or retirement village operator (prohibited conflict).

To obtain a role profile and information please contact: courtneyh@agedrights.asn.au

Should you require further information or wish to have a confidential discussion please contact Chief Executive, Carolanne Barkla on 0439206184

Applications will be accepted only via SEEK, will be assessed as they are received and will close 15th August 2025.