

Australia Capital Territory Division Council Election 2026

CANDIDATES

Please note:

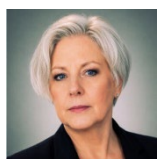
- Candidates are presented in alphabetical order.
- Biographies are supplied by the candidates.
- Where a * appears at the start of a candidate's name, this means that the Council supports the re-election of this candidate.

The Council does not conduct an assessment process for new candidates seeking election to the Council or re-standing Councillors. However, where the Council considers a current Councillor to have made a valuable contribution to the Council or the AICD during their term, the Council has the discretion to indicate to members that it supports the re-election of that Councillor.

Where a Council supports the re-election of a current Councillor it does not constitute an assessment against other candidates. Members should consider the skills, experience and potential contribution of all candidates when casting their vote.

Sonya Blondinau MAICD

BEC MQ



Sonya is an accomplished Director, Chair, Company Secretary and senior executive. With over 20 years' experience at a senior executive level she has had oversight of start-ups, corporates, and charitable organisations.

She brings strong board-level capability in governance, financial services and strategy, supported by experience as a published author and speaker in these fields. In addition to a BEC, Sonya holds postgraduate qualifications in finance, WHS and executive coaching and is a recent graduate of UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business.

She is the Public Officer and Secretary of MIEACT, chairing its Audit and Risk Committee and is a member of the Revenue Development Committee. She is also a Director of Community Services #1, a member of its Audit and Risk and Governance Committees and Chairs the Operations Committee.

Sonya is currently Company Secretary and Head of Corporate Services at MS Australia, and has previously held roles as COO, GM and Senior Consultant, alongside appointments as NED, Responsible Manager and Company Secretary.

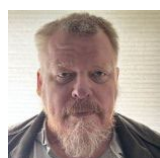
A member of the AICD since 2008, Sonya has attended several AICD courses, including Fundamentals of Directorship, strengthening her commitment to contemporary governance.

She is committed to delivering effective leadership and governance to all communities.

Nominators: Sheryle Moon FAICD and Jason Duarte GAICD

Dr Alan Dyer GAICD

BSC (UNSW), MSc(IT) (UNSW), DIT(EA) (UNSW), MIEEE



Dr Alan Dyer is highly experienced at helping organisations understand their business needs, as well as helping these organisations translate those business needs into solutions. This built on Alan's extensive experience in analysis using sparse and diverse information sets to support organisational and operational decision making. Alan also has experience in the application of information and knowledge management to support organisational decision-making, particularly as it is applied in the complex multi-agency and Defence domain.

Alan's combined Defence and consultancy background demonstrates skills and experience in decision support, communications (from customer-focus and technical perspectives), concept development and analysis. His work in capability development has helped influence the ADF in broader complex concepts (such as intelligence, electronic warfare, and command and control).

Alan has been supporting and observing small not-for-profit (for purpose) associations in NSW and ACT for nearly 14 years by serving on various boards. He has experienced the for-purpose secretary, treasurer and president roles, leading these organisations for the benefit of the communities they serve. Included in this experience is his servitude on the boards of an Industry Association (for the benefit of member companies), a State Sporting Organisation (for the benefit of athletes) and a Community Service organisation.

Nominators: Paul McMahon GAICD and Colin Cooper MAICD

Harry Hoang OAM GAICD

MProfAcct (ANU), BEc (ANU), BBM (Marketing) (NEU)



Harry is a finance, governance and technology leader with more than 18 years' experience helping businesses, not-for-profit organisations and community groups improve performance, strengthen accountability and build long-term sustainability.

An AICD member since 2016 and a graduate of the Company Directors Course, Harry brings practical board-level expertise across financial oversight, risk, strategy, technology and stakeholder engagement. As Founder and CEO of Tailored Accounts, he has built an award-winning firm supporting more than 1,000 organisations across Australia and serves as CFO or adviser to more than 20 organisations.

Since 2018, he has led the development of sovereign AI capability within Tailored Accounts, building expertise in AI strategy, automation, security, sustainability and ethical frameworks. He is also involved each year in more than 15 formal audits of not-for-profit clients, providing direct insight into assurance, compliance and organisational resilience.

Harry has held roles with the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Australia China Business Council, Institute of Public Accountants ACT Division, and charitable and multicultural organisations.

Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2025, Harry is standing to give ACT members a practical, independent and community-focused voice, with a focus on SMEs, not-for-profits, emerging directors, technology, AI and financial risk.

Nominators: Dr Michael Schaper PhD FAICD and Ilea Buffier FAICD

Suzanne Aurey Howarth PHF GAICD

BA LLB (Sydney) LLM (Melbourne)



Suzanne has over 40 years practical legal experience and has been a member of the AICD since 2014. This is combined with extensive committee and board experience. Suzanne joined the Australian Public Service in Canberra in 1992 and remains admitted to legal practice in both Australia and the UK.

Suzanne has deep experience in legislative policy development and regulation across several Commonwealth agencies (Attorney General's Department, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and The Treasury) and wishes to volunteer her skills in government, education, legal, accounting and finance and strategy to the AICD's ACT Division Council.

Educated in Newcastle, Suzanne became a Rotary Exchange student in Finland in 1980. Suzanne has a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition for her work enhancing better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world.

Since 2022 Suzanne has been a correspondent for UNIDROIT – the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law- and last year her appointment was extended until 2028. Currently, Suzanne is an observer on the Institute's work on the legal nature of verified carbon credits. Until 2025 she was a member of the ACT National Council of Women and remains a member of the Councils in NSW and Victoria.

Nominators: Wayne Arthur MAICD and Cathy Skippington GAICD

David McKenna FAICD

MPA PG CertPP GCertLaw BAppEnt



David is an experienced non-executive director and governance adviser with more than 20 years' experience across boards, committees, and local government appointments. His work spans governance, strategy, transformation, public policy, and innovation, with a focus on purpose-driven organisations and sustainable impact.

He is Deputy Chair and a Non-Executive Director of Reserve Bank Health Society Limited, an APRA-regulated private health insurer, where he chairs the Audit Committee and serves on the Resilience Committee. He is also a Non-Executive Director of YMCA NSW and chairs its Transformation and Strategy Committee. David has experience in the start-up and scaleup ecosystem, having co-founded and scaled ventures in energy education, and the care economy.

As Managing Director at NeuroLogic Partners, David advises for-purpose boards on governance effectiveness, board performance, succession planning, recruitment, and secretariat support.

David supports the ongoing development of good governance and professional practice through active contribution to governance education, professional forums, and panel discussions. He was the 2023 Essential Director Update local panellist; panellist at the Developing Next Generation Directors breakfast (2023); moderator of the AGS NFP Spotlight (2020); and has been featured twice in Company Director. David holds qualifications in public administration, law, entrepreneurship, and is completing a PhD.

Nominators: Zoe Piper GAICD and Vicki Williams GAICD

Siân Rinaldi GAICD

MBA, MHRM, BComms (University of Canberra)



Siân served six years on the global board of the Change Management Institute, completing three consecutive terms to November 2024 as Secretary, General Director, Vice President. She oversaw a \$3.5 million budget, saw membership grow 32 per cent and revenue 27 per cent, and led the Institute's global AI governance framework. She was awarded Lifetime Membership in 2024 and is rebuilding the Canberra chapter as Chapter lead.

Siân co-founded The Girls Leadership Network in 2017 and remains on its leadership team. The program takes in up to 50 young female-identifying people through a leadership program each year in Canberra, and its alumni have gone on to lead their schools and launch programs of their own. She is a Coordinator of the ACT Greyhound Support Network since 2016, alongside other community roles.

Siân is a strategic designer and change specialist with 16+ years delivering complex reform across Australian Governments, most recently as an Executive Director at ThinkPlace and now as founder of Unordinary. She has been an AICD member since 2018 and is an alum of the ACT Division's 2019 Diverse Director Accelerator program. She offers her governance, member engagement and community experience to the ACT Division Council.

Nominators: Shelley Thomson MAICD and Zoe Piper GAICD

Virginia Shaw FAICD

MBA (Change Management), Charles Sturt University; B.Mgt, (SYD)



Virginia has been a non-executive director and audit and risk leader for over two decades, working across technology, agriculture, health, government and the not-for-profit sectors. She has chaired and served on audit, risk and governance committees, bringing expertise in ICT oversight, strategic planning, governance, risk management, cyber security, procurement governance and organisational transformation.

As Director, Audit, Risk and Governance for Massage & Myotherapy Australia, Virginia chaired the Audit and Risk Committee, strengthening financial oversight and compliance frameworks. When Deputy Chair and Special Skills Director of the Ag Institute of Australia, she directed ICT, governance and project management strategy, developing the Institute's Ethics Masterclass program. She has served on the ACT Government Procurement Board, ACT Public Cemeteries Authority, Melbourne Market Authority and ACT Gene Technology Advisory Council.

Virginia holds an MBA specialising in change management and is a Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation.

Virginia wishes to volunteer her skills in business, governance, risk management, information technology and strategy to the AICD's Division Council, drawing on experience across government, education, not-for-profit and SME organisations.

Virginia is a Fellow of the AICD and a graduate of the Company Directors Course. Virginia has been a member of the AICD since 1995.

Nominators: Kathleen O'Sullivan GAICD and Guy Blackburn GAICD

*** Kate Waterford GAICD**

FGIA, BA, LLB(Hons), LLM, LLM (Applied), MComm (Accounting)



Kate is nominating for a third, final term on the ACT Divisional Council. Kate is a local lawyer with accounting and governance expertise, and well-connected across business, government and academic communities, as Managing Partner of law firm Maliganis Edwards Johnson.

A board director since 2014 and AICD member since 2016, Kate has experience on a range of high-profile government and NFP boards. Her recent board roles include Amnesty International Australia (Deputy Chair); the Physiotherapy Board of Australia; Corryong Health; Birth Trauma Australia (Chair); and the AusCam Freedom Project (Chair). She currently serves as an ACT Law Society Councillor and is active on global board committees for both Amnesty International and the Fred Hollows Foundation.

Kate has led board work on organisational restructuring, financial oversight, membership strategy and risk management, along with major governance reform projects for several NFPs, in complex stakeholder environments.

Kate has contributed actively to the ACT Divisional Council throughout her first two terms, organising and speaking at many local events. She represents the ACT on the National Law Committee and recently served on the 'Membership Reimagined' program national working group, advising the AICD on enhancing member support strategies. Kate has completed the AICD's advanced 'Boardroom Mastery' course.

Nominators: Jennifer Bennett FAICD and Anne-Marie Perret FAICD