

Victoria

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.

*** Professor Marie Bismark FAICD**

MBChB LLB MBHL MPH MPsy ch MD FAFPHM FRANZCP FAICD



Marie is an experienced professional director who is dual-qualified in law and medicine. She serves as a board member and chair of clinical governance for Somerset Group Holdings and on the board of Oral Health Victoria. Marie holds Ministerial appointments on the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Veterans Health and the Mental Health Tribunal (Victoria).

In addition to her governance roles, Marie has an active clinical practice as a psychiatrist, working in regional and rural communities. She leads a research team at the Melbourne School of Public Health and teaches health law at Melbourne Law School. Her research has influenced regulatory policy in 20 countries. Marie has been named an Australian Financial Review 100 Women of Influence for her research and advocacy around improving the quality and safety of healthcare.

Marie strongly believes in the power of good governance to bring about positive change. She offers skills in governance, education, stakeholder engagement, and policy and regulatory reform to the AICD's Victorian Division Council.

Marie is a Fellow of the AICD and a graduate of the Company Directors Course. She has been a member of the AICD since 2010.

Nominators: Commissioner Ro Allen AM FAICD and Dr Samantha Smith FAICD

Mark Lock GAICD

BSc BPharm MBA GradDipACGRM FGIA FCG FANZCAP



Mark Lock is a board director, company secretary and Chartered Governance Professional with more than a decade of experience across the not-for-profit, membership, co-operative and government sectors.

Mark currently serves as a director of the Indigenous General Practice Trainee Network (IGPTN), Cancer Nurses Society of Australia (CNSA), Open Gardens Victoria and Travellers Aid Australia. He also chairs the Finance, Audit & Risk Committees for IGPTN and CNSA.

As Principal Consultant of Apoth Consulting, Mark works with boards to strengthen governance frameworks, board effectiveness, strategic oversight, risk management and regulatory compliance. His focus has been on driving governance uplift across health and community organisations, membership bodies, co-operatives and incorporated associations, while also working with state and Commonwealth statutory bodies. Mark also has extensive experience supporting boards as a company secretary.

Mark holds an MBA, a Graduate Diploma in Applied Corporate Governance and Risk Management and is a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia.

A Member of the AICD since 2018, and a Graduate of the Company Directors Course, Mark is committed to promoting contemporary governance practices and supporting director capability across Australia's diverse not-for-profit, membership and public sectors.

Nominators: Ms Kristin Michaels FAICD and Ms Chelsea McIntosh GAICD

Annette Sando GAICD

MA, ACDMM, CDipAF, CPIM, CSCP



Annette Sando is an experienced non-executive director, chair and senior executive with more than two decades of leadership across international markets and diverse industries, including automotive, construction, healthcare, packaging, industrial sectors and government-funded science.

She has chaired sporting, adult education and community organisations, supporting boards and management teams through strategic, structural and governance change. Her executive career includes senior roles in ASX and DAX listed organisations, leading transformation across operations, supply chain, customer service and financial performance while strengthening culture and digital capability. As functional Director and General Manager, Annette has held end-to-end accountability for safety, quality, sustainability, commercial outcomes and customer value delivery servicing both B2B customers i.e. FMCG and mining/resources, and B2C customers i.e. medical, building.

She brings practical insight, strategic curiosity and a disciplined governance lens shaped by extensive operational experience and qualifications in science, manufacturing, management, accounting and finance.

Nominators: Kelly-Ann O'Shanassy GAICD and Josephine Mikleus GAICD

*** Nihal Shah GAICD**



Nihal has been a company director for 30 years with extensive experience in international business leadership roles in Australia, UK, Hong Kong and the Pacific. Nihal is passionate about making a positive difference to the Australian director community.

Nihal started his legal career in the UK, transitioning into business and commerce shortly thereafter. He is Chairman of the Pacific Foam Group – a manufacturing and distribution business with 50 years presence in PNG and part of a multi-national family enterprise into its 5th generation.

Since 2023, Nihal is an independent non-executive director on the board of NCI Holdings – a large privately-held manufacturing business with operations across Australia, New Zealand, PNG and Fiji.

With a number of senior leadership and Board roles, Nihal brings deep experience in commerce, business, corporate governance and organisational dynamics.

Nihal currently serves on the AICD's Victorian Division Council and is Chair of its Nominations Committee. He is Vice-President of the Australia PNG Business Council and a director of the Manufacturer's Council of PNG. Nihal is an avid golfer, squash player and trail hiker.

Nihal is a member of the AICD since 2007 and completed the CDC in 2013.

Nominators: Kathleen Bailey-Lord FAICD and Commissioner Ro Allen AM FAICD

Adj. Professor Jeffrey Smith GAICD

MCyberSec, MBA



Jeff who lives and works in regional Victoria is a CEO and former CIO & CISO, who's parlayed being a builder's labourer at 15, a teen father and high school dropout into a successful career.

Jeff has served on the boards of membership organisations at a National (ACS) and State level (HIA). Jeff has also represented Australia at the international level as the Australian representative to the Seoul Accord, and to IFIP.

Jeff has focused his career as a director on developing and improving membership organisations, with an emphasis on enhancing the member experience and driving member growth. In addition to his board roles, he also sits on the Finance/Risk committees for two large NFP's. His focus is to ensure that people in regional and rural communities are provided the same opportunities and experiences as those who live in our capital cities

He has worked in Government and large international enterprises, is highly experienced in IT, business transformation, and marketing. Jeff holds a Master's in both Cyber Security, and Business Administration. He is an Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University, where he works with regional businesses to improve their R&D opportunities through PhD candidates.

Nominators: Jan Boynton FAICD and Carolyn Stanford MAICD