

ACA Victoria Executive Board Nomination 2024

Nominee: Jennifer Kearney

Service Provider: Kekeco Childcare Pty Ltd

Describe your experience in the early childhood education and care sector.

I have been an Early Childhood Education and Care Provider since July 2007. We currently operate three long day care services in regional Victoria, providing care to over 300 children daily. We operate 3 and 4 year old kindergartens in the three services.

Tell us what makes ACA Victoria's mission meaningful to you.

For me personally, being able to be part of a group who is able to influence change for our sector, being able to represent country members and being able to collaborate with my community and nationally, to provide better overall outcomes not only for the children in our care, but also for the staff we train and employ, and the families who use our care every day, as well the members of ACA Victoria.

Describe any Board Leadership experience you have had to date.

In addition to the years I have been on the ACA Executive I have also been a Trust member for the Greater Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust and Chair of Templestowe Cemetery, both of these were Government Appointments. I was National Indirect Channel Manager at Telstra Mobilenet before retiring from that role and setting up my own business.

Outline any skills, connections, resources, or expertise you can provide to improve the services ACA Victoria offers to its members.

I have hands on day to day operating experience for long day care and Kindergarten. I also have hands on experience operating OSHC services but no longer do this.

Confirm that you can commit to the time required for meetings and other duties as outlined in the Executive Board Position Description.

I can commit to providing time required for meeting preparation, meetings and any other duties assigned to me from time to time.

What are your thoughts on the key challenges and opportunities facing the Early Childhood Education and Care sector?

The challenges as I see them:

1. over supply of new services in areas where there are already too many
2. Ensuring staff are being trained well not just being given a certificate which does not prepare them to be able to work in a real sense
3. Vic Government moving into the Kindergarten sector

None of these things are easy to fix or control but learning to work around them will be the challenge into the future.

Indicate how you might use your time on the ACA Victoria's Board to address these challenges and opportunities.

Continue to use whatever influence I can when appropriate to bring these issues into relevant discussions with people of influence.

What are your ideas to enhance ACA Victoria's engagement with its members?

Whatever we do (Communication, Conferences, Functions, Training etc) needs to be relevant and timely which is what we are doing.