ACA Victoria Executive Board Nomination 2026

Nominee: Max Bergh

Service Provider: AMIGA Montessori

Bio:

Max is the CEO and Approved Provider of AMIGA Montessori, bringing almost 20 years of experience in early childhood education. She co-founded AMIGA with her family in 2006 and has grown the organisation to 15 centres across Victoria and South Australia.

Max is a values-driven leader with hands-on experience across all aspects of service delivery, from the classroom to executive leadership. She is passionate about quality education, staff wellbeing, and sustainable sector growth, with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing providers today.

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

CEO - AMIGA Montessori, 7 years

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

ACA Victoria's mission is meaningful to me because early learning has shaped both my career and my family. Leading a family-owned provider, I feel a strong personal responsibility to advocate for a sector that supports children, families and educators, and to help strengthen its quality and sustainability.

Describe any Board Leadership experience you have had to date.

I have served for two years as a Director of ACA Victoria, as Chairperson of the Vinnies CEO Sleepout Advisory Committee, and for two years on the University of Melbourne GSA Board, including as Women's Officer. These roles have given me experience across governance, advocacy, stakeholder engagement, strategic decision-making and sector leadership.

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

I bring practical experience leading and growing a multi-site early learning organisation, with strengths across strategy, governance, operations, compliance, workforce and commercial decision-making. I also bring strong sector relationships, a legal background, and a practical understanding of the challenges facing providers, which I can use to help ACA Victoria deliver relevant, useful and commercially grounded support to members.

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

I confirm I can commit to these responsibilities.

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

Key challenges include increasing market saturation, exacerbated by the expansion of Free Kinder; declining family confidence in the sector, particularly towards for-profit providers following recent media coverage; and an increasingly critical regulatory environment. At the same time, these challenges create an opportunity for stronger sector advocacy and constructive engagement with government. I have particularly valued contributing to ACA Victoria's work in developing practical sector positions and priorities to put forward to political parties ahead of the November Victorian election.

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

I would continue to bring the perspective of a larger provider, with significant reach across Montessori and 18 centres, drawing on trends and experiences within our own organisation as well as the views of ACA Victoria members. I would use this insight to help shape practical, evidence-based advocacy and policy positions, particularly in the lead-up to the Victorian election, ensuring the sector's challenges and opportunities are clearly represented to government and other key stakeholders.

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

I would continue to actively attend member meetings and forums such as What's on Your Mind to hear directly from members about emerging issues, ideas and concerns. I would also engage more broadly across the sector through conferences, including ECA events and other industry gatherings, to bring wider trends and perspectives back to ACA Victoria. This would help ensure our advocacy and member services remain informed by both the day-to-day experiences of members and broader sector developments.