


Nomination for Position on the Australian Lawyers for Human Rights National Committee February 2023

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>(Nominations from new members and from all states and territories are encouraged)</i></p>	
I,	VALERIE MAY HEATH
	(full name)
of	Redacted
	(address)
Phone/e-mail	redacted
	(contact details)
nominate for the positions of:	Ordinary Member and Freedoms Convenor
	(President, Treasurer, Secretary, Ordinary Member)
of the National Committee of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights Incorporated.	
Signed by nominator (may be nominee)	
	
Date 25/06/2023	
<p>Please set out below a short bio, a brief summary of your reasons for wishing to be elected to the National Committee and describe what you believe you are able to contribute by reference to the relevant position description:</p>	

I am a barrister and have been in private practice at the NSW Bar for 28 years. I enjoy taking cases with strong social justice issues and regularly contribute pro bono representation in cases with social justice and civil rights implications.

My particular interest is in legislative overreach affecting civil liberties and government accountability issues. Since 2001 the Australian government has become more secretive, less accountable and with greater and more intrusive powers of surveillance, detention, control and data matching. Combined with lack of transparency of political donations, use under the former LNP coalition government of opaque 'no bid' contracts and abuse of government grants for political purposes and insufficient investigative mechanisms for public corruption, these developments present significant risks to democracy and human rights in Australia.

In the same period, the government treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers and our indigenous and migrant populations also worsened.

Growing threats presented by far-right hate groups at home and abroad and the largely uncharted, unrepresentative rise of evangelical "prosperity theology" religious power in domestic politics presents dangers to civil society we had hoped we had left behind in 1945.

It is hoped the new Labor government will restore accountability and governance standards but there is a need for organisations like ALHR to continue to advocate strongly for improvements in transparency and the constraint of state and corporate surveillance and the exercise of other intrusive powers.

In short, there has never been greater need for the work of the ALHR. I would be pleased to continue to assist that work in whatever role would be most helpful to the Association.

If you have any queries about the roles and responsibilities of office bearers and committee members, contact the current ALHR executive on secretary@alhr.org.au.

Nominations must be delivered by email to: secretary@alhr.org.au

Please note: only members of ALHR may nominate for a position

NB: If you wish to become more involved in ALHR, but do not wish to nominate for the National Committee, please consider joining one of our thematic subcommittees or becoming involved in your State Committee. Visit www.alhr.org.au to find out more.