



Nomination for Position on National Committee August 2024

(Nominations from new members and from all states and territories are encouraged)

I, Kerry Weste

.....
(full name)

of [redacted] (Not for publication)

.....
(address)

Phone/e-mail [redacted] (Not for publication)/

.....
(contact details)

nominate for the position of: Vice President

.....
(President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Ordinary Member)

If Ordinary Member, which subcommittee:

of the National Committee of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights Incorporated.

24 August 2024

Signed by nominator (may be nominee)

Date:

Please set out below a (very 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.

If you are nominating for an ordinary member position please outline your experience or expertise in the subcommittee area chosen. Please also outline briefly your plans for the year ahead as chair of the subcommittee:

Bio:

Kerry was admitted as a solicitor and barrister in South Australia in 1998 and has been a member of the ALHR National Committee since 2014, including a two year term as ALHR Vice-President and a five year term as President. She has practiced in South Australia, London and Sydney as a criminal defence solicitor and as a Senior Legal Officer for the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions and has over 24 years experience as an advocate. Kerry has worked for top tier private firms and currently works in the civil society and NGO sector. She has extensive experience working within the policy and law reform space, in domestic and international advocacy campaigns and engaging with the media. Kerry has a long held interest in Children's rights and juvenile justice and is a registered contributor with the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO). She was a recipient of the The Children's Interests Bureau Prize at Flinders University. Kerry also Co-Chairs ALHR's Children's Rights Subcommittee and Co-Convenes the Human Rights for NSW Alliance.

Reasons for nominating:

I have been a member of the ALHR National Committee for over ten years, including serving as President and chair of children's rights for the past five years, a two-year term as Vice President, and a 3-year term as Chair of ALHR's Fundraising Subcommittee. During this time I have contributed to improving ALHR's governance and advancing the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of ALHR as one of Australia's leading human rights organisation.

As Chair of the Fundraising Subcommittee I successfully project managed significant organisational change on behalf of ALHR via the introduction of paid membership and delivered ALHR an ongoing revenue stream for the first time in its history. To date paid membership has raised over \$105,000 in revenue for ALHR. Together with NSW Convenors I also project managed ALHR's first Fundraising Dinners, which have continued bi-annually and have raised more than \$40,000 in total. I delivered these outcomes whilst also continuing to make significant contributions to ALHR's day-to-day human rights strategic advocacy such and overall strategic direction and governance processes.

I believe my in-depth knowledge of international human rights law, ALHR's strategic goals moving forward, my years of experience in high level leadership roles for ALHR and acumen as an experienced legal practitioner stand me in very good stead to continue to hand over the Presidency and continue to support that transition in the role of ALHR Vice President. My professional experience managing complex litigation and supervising junior solicitors as well as my experience in managing members of the ALHR national committee for the past three years, means that I can confidently co-ordinate the work of ALHR on behalf of the Executive, the Executive Management Committee and the National Committee.

During my time as President and Vice President of ALHR I have:

- Continued and expanding ALHRs excellent work drafting and settling submissions on multiple and numerous state/Territory/federal parliamentary inquiries and to UN bodies (incl UN Special Procedures and Special Rapporteurs) – we are now at the point where we receive personal invitations from Federal and State Parliamentary Committees to provide submissions and from Federal Ministers to attend events such as the DFAT Human Rights NGO Roundtable in Canberra.
- Been a frequent media release spokesperson for ALHR on many and varied human right issues.
- Worked with key members of the NC to Assess, enhance and optimise ALHR's governance systems and fundraising activities and drafted policy and guidance documents all focused towards improving ALHR's internal governance and external advocacy impacts and outputs.
- Managed complex human resource issues ensuring the protection of ALHR's best interests and reputation.
- Worked with my executive colleagues, the Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer as well as the National Committee and over the last 24 months the Executive Management Committee to expand the National Committee to comprise of over 30 people, active state and territory committees and 10 national thematic subcommittees, including the: Disability Rights Subcommittee; Refugee Rights Subcommittees; Indigenous Rights Subcommittee; Human Rights Act(s) Subcommittee; Women & Girls' Rights Subcommittee; Freedoms Subcommittee; LGBTI Subcommittee and; Business & Human Rights Subcommittee, Children's Rights Subcommittee and the Economic Social and Cultural Rights Subcommittee.
- Worked with the immediate past president to engage ALHR's first professional media consultant which has lead to increased media exposure (ABC RN AM/PM, Channel 10 *The Project*) SBS Radio) and consistent local, regional, national and international media exposure (radio, print, TV) thereby amplifying ALHR's advocacy impact on important human rights issues in Australia and abroad.
- Project Managed the delivery of ALHR's sold out inaugural national human rights conference and La Trobe University Law School's City Campus in Melbourne.
- Fostered and developed key strategic relationships with prominent human rights advocates, civil society organisations, government and public departments and the legal sector.
- Continued to oversee and project manage ALHR's paid membership system, the introduction of which I project managed as Ordinary member for Fundraising in 2015. When paid membership was introduced in 2015 ALHR reverted to a membership of 0 and through consistent management of membership promotion and growth, ALHR's paid membership now stands at over 1,000 barristers, judicial officers, legal academics and law students, and has raised more than \$105,000 in funds for ALHR.
- Attended numerous events to represent and speak on behalf of ALHR
- Sat on the Advisory Committee and the Political Advocacy Committee of the Campaign for an Australian Charter of Rights
- Worked with the New South Wales Council for Civil Liberties to lead a new campaign for a NSW Human Rights Act engaging all peal NSW legal bodies and many community advocacy groups.
- Launched an ALHR Children's Rights Subcommittee and an Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Subcommittee.

If re-elected to the position of ALHR president I will remain dedicated to advancing and implementing initiatives which deliver:

- The resources needed for ALHR to become a leading legal voice in human rights discourse in Australia;
- Progression of beneficial relationships with organisations and individuals such as expanding the in kind relationship we enjoyed with through our secretariat and Human Rights Advocacy

subject at La Trobe University Law School to universities nationally;

- Timely reactions to human rights issues as they arise;
- Growth in ALHR's membership numbers;
- Value-added professional development for our membership;
- Progress toward ALHR's medium and long-term strategic goals, such as:
 - a greater focus on more consistent communication with members of parliament;
 - a greater media presence;
 - greater involvement in United Nations complaints mechanism;
 - an increased presence at international human rights forums;
 - filing amicus applications in matters that raise international human rights law considerations;
 - greater collaboration to lead and form alliances within civil society aimed at achieving solutions to systemic human rights failings; and
- Attention to the continued monitoring and strengthening of ALHR's governance and mechanisms to ensure that these are continuously monitored, reflected upon and improved.

I am very excited about the opportunity to continue to assist in the leadership of ALHR. These are very exciting and concerning historic times. International human rights law, the rule of law and democratic institutions are under great pressure. ALHR has a very important and robust part to play in defending them. I strongly believe that my in-depth knowledge of international human rights law and of the operations and governance structure of ALHR stand me in good stead to more-than-adequately discharge the duties of ALHR Vice President.

I would be very grateful for the ALHR national committee and membership to elect me to the position of Vice President and to continue growing ALHR's multi-faceted impacts and exposure throughout Australia and overseas.

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

Completed Nominations must be delivered to: president@alhr.org.au