

# Nominations Committee Candidates

Candidates were asked to address the below key selection criteria:

- Intersectional Feminism
- Responsibilities of Directors
- Critical thinking
- Recruitment, interviews or HR

Each candidate was assessed by the Nominations Committee and was approved by the YWCA Australia Board to stand for election. All appointments are subject to background checks and receipt of consents.

**The candidates are listed in alphabetical order by their first name.**

## Hilary Callaghan *NSW*



Hilary Callaghan started her board career in order to be part of the change she wanted to see: better representation on boards. Having lived experience as a queer woman, person with disability, carer for her profoundly disabled sister, as a domestic abuse survivor and as a young person who experienced systemic obstacles to both education and housing, she wanted to get on boards and create space for more lived experiences to impact the change of tomorrow. In 2020, her unwavering drive saw her become Chairperson for Disability Justice Australia, a national charity which provides legal advocacy to people living with disability. In 2021 she led a successful vote for DJA's constitutional reform.

Throughout her 18 year career Hilary has focussed on intersectional feminism: creating global diversity and inclusion HR and recruitment programs for businesses around the world, with a specialisation in remote work initiatives. She's personally interviewed over a thousand people for corporations, scholarships, and as part of her board duties. At Nine Entertainment she's building initiatives to create alternative pathways for people to start their tech careers. She also runs campaigns to raise money for the Cammeraygal High School P&C and presents at conferences about inclusion in remote workplaces. She lives on the land of the Cammeraygal people, with her partner; an 11 year-old non-binary child, who is determined to become a human rights lawyer; a teenage budding musician; and a rambunctious dog.

## Jenessa O'Connell – Young Woman *ACT*



As an accomplished technologist, Jenessa is using her talent, skills and vision to pave a world-changing career pathway. Jenessa's vision helps to combat the notion that 'you can't be what you can't see' by authentically bringing her whole self to the table and encouraging others to do the same. Jenessa is a Manager within the Technology Advisory service line at KPMG. She has comprehensive experience within Human Resource (HR) Management, Project Management and strategic innovation, across several government departments. Moreover, she is a highly motivated critical thinker who provides fit-for-purpose solutions, while developing and maintaining a positive and productive relationship with people of all levels. Furthermore, she is the recipient of the first Canberra Women in ICT Emerging Leader award (2019), ARN Women in ICT Rising Star award (2020) and Women's Agenda Private Sector Emerging Leader Finalist (2021), highlighting her drive to implement diversity, inclusion and intersectional practices within Industry. Jenessa is the Co-Chair of the Canberra International Women's Day (IWD) Committee, leading the support for one of the largest annual fundraisers for UN Women Australia through effective event management and community engagement.

## Julia Burns *ACT*



Julia is the Managing Partner of an HR consulting firm and a former Executive Director of the Australian Government's Office for Women. She has addressed the United Nations General Assembly on gender equality.

Julia says "As feminists, we know that everything is a feminist issue, and that a gender lens needs to be applied to issues of all degrees of magnitude. This is true of intersectionality too. Feminism is inextricably tied in with people's broader reality and all the elements of our life which significantly influence our concept and experience of feminism (eg age, disability, language, neurodiversity, culture and ethnicity, and body shape). This means that feminist perspectives and policy need to take these and all intersecting issues into account".

Julia has been a member of the YWCA Australia Nominations Committee for the last 3 years and is keen to provide continuity on the committee for another term, while supporting more young women into governance roles in the YWCA.

Her passion for feminism and her extensive background in Human Resources and not-for-profit governance has made her a valuable contributor to the work of the committee.

Julia has served on numerous boards and non-profit committees, including the YWCA in Canberra and as a committee chair for the National Breast Cancer Foundation. She founded and continues to chair My Coaching My Future - an organisation providing free coaching for survivors of violent relationships.

## Shanshan Guo – Young Woman *Rhodes, NSW*



Shanshan is a policy officer at the NSW Government with a background in Arts and Law. Throughout her work and study, Shanshan has provided support to policy and law reforms, volunteered for community legal centres and undertaken leadership roles in law and debating societies.

Moving to Australia alone at the age of 15, Shanshan has gained insights into social and economic issues in different contexts. This experience has shaped her goal to deliver the largest amount of impact and meaning she can. As a woman of colour and an ESL (English as a Second Language) speaker, She understands how gender overlapped with other identities can have a compound effect on discrimination and is passionate about addressing gender inequality through an intersectional lens.

In her free time, Shanshan enjoys dancing, making cocktails with friends and maintaining a dessert mind map!