

Profiles of Community Advisory Committee Members

Board members

Mr David Menadue OAM

Mr Menadue had a career as a teacher and editor with the Education Department of Victoria before taking ill-health retirement. He has been actively involved in leadership roles in a range of community-based organisations including the Victorian AIDS Council, People Living with HIV/AIDS Victoria, the National Association of People Living with HIV/AIDS, the National Disability Caucus and the Consumer Health Forum. He was a member of the Fairfield Hospital Board of Management from 1992-1995. He was awarded an Order of Australia in 1995 for services to community health.

Mr Julian Gardner

Mr Gardner is a lawyer providing consultancy services primarily in the areas of human rights, social justice and public administration. He was until 2007 Victoria's Public Advocate, a role that promotes the rights and interests of people with disabilities. He is the Chair of the National Reference Group of the Respecting Patient Choices program, Deputy Chair, Child Protection Practice Standards and Compliance Committee and a director of Mind Australia. He has previously held positions as President of the Mental Health Review Board, National Convenor of the Social Security Appeals Tribunal, Chairperson of the WorkCare Appeals Board and Director of the Victorian Legal Aid Commission. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration Australia (Victoria) and a Fellow of International House, University of Melbourne where he was the Council Chair. Mr Gardner is a member of the Quality Committee and the Community Advisory Committee.

Community members

Mr Nigel Caswell

Mr Caswell is currently a self-employed celebrant after retiring from a career working in numerous engineering and management roles in organisations like Parks Victoria, Melbourne Parks and Waterway and Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works. Nigel is involved with numerous community organisations including being an ambassador, advocate and volunteer for the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Victoria and on the Committee of Management of the Bayside Community Information and Support Service. Nigel was also a member of the Alfred Health Cultural Diversity Committee from 2005 - 2010 and the Alfred Health Clinical Governance Committee. Nigel has lived in Alfred Health's catchment area for nearly 40 years and both his sons were born at Sandringham Hospital.

Ms Dina Dybner

Ms Dybner is from a Russian Jewish background and arrived as a migrant in 1980. She is self employed as a conveyancer and lives locally. Ms Dybner has good community contacts and networks with organisations such as the National Council of Jewish Women, the Shalom Association and Holocaust Survivors Association. She has family and friends with medical needs whom she regularly assists and is interested in language services in health care.

Mr Godefa G'her

Mr G'her is Ethiopian and his area of expertise is working with new and emerging communities. He has worked with the Migrant Resource Centre as a settlement

planning and community development officer and is currently working at Victoria University at the Australian Community Centre for Diabetes as a Project Officer working with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) and indigenous communities. He has done a lot of work in the community with a variety of different CALD groups and has also been a patient at The Alfred.

Ms Sarah Gray

Ms Gray works as a medical laboratory scientist. She also has tertiary qualifications in fine arts and history. Her activities as a consumer representative are informed by her own experience of ill health. She is a sole parent with three children. As well as being a member of the Alfred Health Community Advisory Committee, Sarah is also a member of St Vincent's Health Community Advisory Committee and is a community representative on their Clinical Quality and Risk Committee. She is also a consumer member of the Victorian Hospital Acquired Infection Surveillance Committee and was a member of Alfred Health's 2009 and 2010 Quality of Care Report Advisory Group. Sarah is also a volunteer at The Alfred in the Emergency Department. She is particularly interested in education as a way of improving communication between stakeholders in the health care system.

Mr Brett Hayhoe

Mr Hayhoe has served the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (GLBTi) community of Victoria on a variety of Boards for the past eight years. He is currently President of Pride March Victoria, Region 20 Director and Media & Public Relations Assistant for InterPride (the International Organisation of Pride Organisers), Secretary of AHAG (AIDS Housing Action Group), Director for Victoria and Company Secretary of GALTA (Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia), a member of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee on GLBTi issues in addition to owning Q Magazine (a national monthly lifestyle publication) and being a contract sales person for JOY Melbourne.

Ms Val Johnstone

Ms Johnstone has significant experience in consumer representation and strong links with the local community. She was a member of the Caulfield Hospital Consumer and Carer Reference Group and is on a number of Committees of the Primary Care Partnership, Inner South East Partnership in Community Health. She has worked professionally and voluntarily in the health and disability sectors, has the perspective of a person living with a visual impairment and is the primary carer of her daughter who has Downs syndrome.

Dr Caroline Spencer

Dr Spencer was a member of the Alfred Health Cultural Diversity Committee for five years and has a strong understanding of the needs and health care concerns of the culturally and linguistically diverse communities. Anthropology informs her research and teaching interests, which utilises the principles of community capacity building, community engagement, health promotion and cultural diversity. Dr Spencer leads community health in paramedic education at Monash University, has fifteen years experience as a community-based health educator and brings an understanding of the health care sector from her own personal experience. Her research interests include how culture influences acute health events and how cultural issues are covered in Australian and New Zealand paramedic education courses.