

Consumers of Mental Health WA - 2026 Board Nominees

Michael Cooper – Individual Member

Michael Cooper is a Wongatha/Yamatji man with lived experience as a mental health consumer and more than 30 years of experience across Aboriginal health, social and emotional wellbeing, disability, community development, and governance. He currently serves as SEWB Pilot Project Coordinator with the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, supporting culturally safe and consumer-centred approaches to mental health and wellbeing.

Driven by both personal and professional experience, Michael is passionate about ensuring lived experience voices, particularly those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, are heard in decisions that shape mental health systems and services. He brings expertise in governance, strategic planning, and community engagement, together with previous board experience as a Director and Treasurer of Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation.

Michael is seeking election to the Board to help strengthen consumer leadership, advance culturally responsive approaches to wellbeing, and contribute to meaningful, lasting change for mental health consumers across Western Australia.

Anita Nathan – Individual Member

Anita is Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Menzies and was previously CEO of Goldfields Community Legal Centre, a nationally accredited not-for-profit serving 19 communities across the Goldfields-Esperance region. Her background spans finance, governance and corporate services, including Director of Corporate Affairs and CFO at the Shire of Coolgardie, and she holds CTA, MIPA, MBA and MAICD qualifications.

Anita is Founder of the Goldfields Multicultural Community Organisation and a committed advocate for regional and multicultural communities, who often face the greatest barriers to mental health support. She brings strong financial and risk oversight to the Board and is drawn to CoMHWA's belief that consumer voices, not systems, should lead change from her own personal lived experiences

Re-standing for election:

Hayley Harris – Individual Member

Hayley Harris is a passionate advocate and community leader with lived experience of mental health challenges. She has worked across mental health, disability, aged care, and youth sectors, including roles in frontline support, peer facilitation, and training. Hayley has served on the CoMHWA board since 2023. She also runs her own business, providing peer supervision, lived experience consultancy, and training.

Steve Pretzel – Associate Individual Member

Steve is an experienced business professional and was previously CEO of Technology for Ageing and Disability WA. He has a background in marketing, technology, strategic consultancy and issue advocacy spanning 45 years, and holds qualifications in small business growth management from Curtin University.

Steve particularly enjoys the challenge of 'wicked problems', and brings a pragmatic but principled viewpoint to the issues with which he engages. He sees great potential in changing 'what is' in mental health support into 'what it should be' and is committed to assisting CoMHWA - and the people it supports - in their quest towards bringing about positive systemic change.