

## **Statements in support of nominations for membership of the Academic Board**

### **Professor Muhammad Aziz Rahman**

I am a passionate and committed academic and researcher in the domain of public health. I have been providing leadership in research and teaching at different universities in Australia over the last 15 years.

My credibility in research is demonstrated by my ongoing leadership in completing several global studies, publishing in high-quality international journals involving multidisciplinary teams, establishing and maintaining local and international collaborations, contributing to funding success, providing supportive supervision to higher degree research (HDR) students and staff, establishing and improving research culture at the Institute and FedUni. At FedUni, I took the formal lead in developing the postgraduate public health programs and establishing the Discipline of Public Health. My credibility in teaching and learning is demonstrated by ongoing positive student evaluations of the course contents and teaching every semester. Besides my previous and current leadership roles at the Institute of Health and Wellbeing, I am serving as the Chair of the University Professoriate Committee in 2024. Through such leadership roles, it has always been an excellent opportunity for me to lead different discussions and contribute to actions relevant to teaching and learning, research, HDR students, collaboration, staff support and growth specifically for early-mid career staff, improving marketing and communication, reducing admin burden for staff.

External to FedUni, I have been working as a Board Member with the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) since 2021 and with the Council of Academic Public Health Institutions in Australasia (CAPHIA) since 2022. I have recently been elected as the Vice- President of PHAA for the next term.

I do believe that I will be able to contribute more effectively to the Academic Board based on my academic and leadership experience at FedUni and externally. If I am elected, besides supporting the team and ongoing regular activities, I will advocate for enhancing communication and engagement of the Academic Board with all staff regularly.

### **Associate Professor Mimmie Watts**

It will be an honour to be a part of the Federation University Academic Board.

Mimmie Watts is an Associate Professor at Federation University Australia and is an experienced public health and health policy expert, and an academic with a strong focus on curriculum development, health policy, migrant health, leadership, and international collaborations in higher education and business ventures.

With over two decades in the health and higher education and with extensive governance experience, Professor Watts served on the Academic Board at Victoria University, as a Commissioner for the Victorian Multicultural Commission, for the State of Victoria, Australia, and is a previous Federal Senate candidate in Australia.

Outside her primary role at Federation University Australia, she serves on Statutory Boards, and as an adjunct visiting Professor, in other Higher education institutions, including as a Professor of Research (Adj) at Fiji National University, Fiji. A dynamic Public Health expert and academic, Professor Watts is deeply enthusiastic about Human development, Inclusion, Early motherhood, and Chronic Disease Prevention/Management. Her commitment to health, to education, and to leadership, continues to shape a brighter and healthier future for communities worldwide.

She is the Chair, Australian Chapter, African Science Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC), African Union Commission, among other governance and senior leadership roles. Professor Watts serves on the Policy Committee, World Federation of Public Health Associations.

She is a proven advocate for the advancement of women in higher education and science.

I hope I can be able to serve the university and community in this important role.