# Blind Citizens Australia

# Election of South Australian Representative to the National Policy Council 2017

# Nominee Statements.

## David Squirrell

I would like to nominate for the National Policy Council.

My background as a rural medical consultant, senior university academic, emergency director, clinical lecturer & senior clinical consultant in health domains have given me over 30 years of involvement at community level, hospital, & community levels at policy development & implementation.

I have served on the Premiers access & social inclusion plan committee at the development & policy level for 4 years & brought about significant changes. I have frequently been asked to participate on state, council & corporate think tanks as to policy development including Bank SA, Dog & Cat management board (re Guide dog status), reviewing councils access & social inclusion plan policy, hospital policy re vision impaired patients etc. Within my numerous tertiary degrees there have been modules on policy development. Whilst serving on the BCA National Policy & Development Plan committee I was very proactive & undertook significant research & input & liaised prolifically with Rikki Chaplin & the committee.

Whilst in rural SA as a Dr practicing procedural skills I serviced on over 20 committees aimed at policy development with a public health perspective. My work ethic & hard working ethos is well known at state & national levels & I believe I still have much to offer so as to improve the status & needs of the vision impaired & blind community. The work I have been involved in has been recognized my receiving the volunteer of the years award in the south three consecutive years & Marion council citizen of the year award runner up & was nominated this year for the Joy Nobel Volunteer of the year State government award.

Dr David Squirrell

Retired Medical Consultant

MB   BS   Dip Obst RACOG   FRACGP   FACRRM   Grad Dip Disaster Management   Grad Dip Musculo Skeletal Medicine   Grad Dip Rural Health   Dip Business   CEMST   Dip Theo

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### Julie Sutherland

My name is Julie Sutherland and I wish to be nominated for the South Australian Representative position on the National Policy Council of Blind Citizens Australia. I am totally blind and have a personal passion for improving access to services and facilities by others in a similar situation by empowering them to advocate for themselves where they can. I have been an active member of BCA since 2002 serving on the Adelaide Branch committee for a number of years and have served on the National Policy and Development Council since 2009 first of all as the Adelaide Branch representative and was co-opted as the National Women’s Branch Representative until late last year when the previous council folded.

Outside of my involvement with BCA and more particularly the Adelaide Branch I am involved with the Blind Welfare Association of SA INC. During my time as a member I have served as a member on its board where I had the opportunity to develop my leadership skills and a broader understanding of the Blindness service sector. Now I am a registered volunteer and assist members at their Social Centre to learn about and trial different pieces of adaptive technology before purchasing it. Having this interaction with other blind people has allowed me to advocate for them when required.

I am willing and able to meet with external parties and other BCA members when I am required to do so. As an NPC member I am looking forward to engaging with members in South Australia on issues such as Audio Description, the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme, MyAged Care, accessible voting at State and Local Government elections and any other issues that need to be addressed as part of BCA’s Strategic Plan for policy development.

Julie Sutherland

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