

Penelope Hill

Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia



Candidate for:

Secretary

Deputy Secretary

I am seeking election to the position of secretary/deputy secretary with the VNGOC as a representative of young people and youth organisations, and also as a representative of the Oceania region.

The VNGOC Board should have a member of a youth-led organisation to be truly representative of the broader membership base, and I believe that I am capable to fulfil the duties of the Secretary/Deputy Secretary roles.

Through my various experience in the drug policy, alcohol and other drug, community health and development, and research sectors I am capable of representing the mission and objectives of the VNGOC: I have much experience in advocating for NGO involvement in policy making decisions at the local and national level in Australia, I possess the necessary capacity building skills for the roles from founding a national member-based network of university clubs campaigning for sensible drug policy, and through my recent study, and I have strong knowledge in the area of the Sustainable Development Goals to utilise in creating opportunities for civil society to work with Government and UN in developing policies towards the achievement of the goals.

I am a current active member of four VNGOC members and have extensive local, national and international Board experience for a young person; predominantly with Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia (as the Founder, Chairperson, International Representative and Immediate Past President), Harm Reduction Australia (Board Member), YouthRise (Oceania International Working Group Member) and the International Drug Policy Consortium (Strategy Sub-Committee Member). Through my experience in these roles I am confident that I could successfully oversee the membership procedures, communication with membership organisations and minute taking responsibilities of the Secretary/Deputy Secretary roles of the VNGOC.

I also have extensive academic experience in appropriate fields, including Health Sciences, International Development and my current PhD candidature investigating health service utilisation of people who inject drugs in Australia, and international research experience in naloxone distribution from my Masters of Public Health in Sweden.

I can offer a strong contribution to the VNGOC through my aforementioned skills and knowledge, predominantly from founding a membership-based national NGO, I have strong capability to take on the roles and responsibilities of Secretary/Deputy Secretary because of my board and administration experience. Through the guidance of my mentor Professor Margaret Hamilton I have swiftly developed the skills and knowledge required to advocate for Australian NGO inclusion in the lead up to the 2019 UNODC High Level Meeting, and I am confident I could transfer these skills to be utilised for UN-VNGOC engagement.