

Penelope Hill
Harm Reduction Australia



Candidate for:
Deputy Secretary

I am seeking election to the position of Deputy Secretary with the VNGOC as a representative of the Oceania region. My motivations to join the VNGOC board include: my previous and current successful board experience, the fact that the VNGOC Board has not had a recent representative from the Oceania region, and that I believe that I am capable to competently fulfil the duties of Secretary role.

Through my various experience in the drug policy, community development, public health and research sectors, I am capable of representing the mission and objectives of the VNGOC, and 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 role, through founding and building a national member-based network of university clubs campaigning for sensible drug policy. Through my recent study, I have strong knowledge in the area of the Sustainable Development Goals, which I utilise by creating opportunities for civil society to work with Australian Governments in developing policies towards the achievement of the goals. I am also a current PhD candidate in Australia researching the impact of health service utilisation on opioid overdose.

I am a current active member of three VNGOC organisations and have extensive local, national and international Board experience for a younger person; predominantly with Harm Reduction Australia (Board Member), Students for Sensible Drug Policy Australia (as the Founder, Chairperson and International Representative), and the International Drug Policy Consortium (Members Advisory Council). Through my experience in these roles, I am confident that I could successfully support the Secretary, oversee the membership procedures, communicate with membership organisations, and take on the minute taking responsibilities of the Deputy Secretary role of the VNGOC.