

ISANA Life Membership Nomination – 2023

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Bronwyn Gilson for the award of Life Membership to ISANA International Education Association.

Bronwyn joined as a member of ISANA in November 2008 and very quickly became actively involved in NSW Branch activities and events. She was destined for larger things though and was elected to the ISANA National Council in 2014 as the ISANA Vice-President. Bronwyn held the role of Vice-President for two terms from 2014-2017.

Yet again she was destined for larger things and was elected as the ISANA President in 2018 – Bronwyn held the role of President for two terms from 2018-2021. Anyone who has held the role of National President understands well the dedication it requires to be 'on' at all times – four years in this role, presiding over the most tumultuous time in international education, is to be applauded!

Since 2021, Bronwyn has continued her representation on National Council as the Immediate Past President and couldn't help herself but to volunteer as the ISANA National Communications Manager when it became available in 2023. She just loves ISANA Council meetings!

Bronwyn's legacy as the ISANA President has been difficult to capture in words – it will be interesting to hear what she feels her greatest achievements were. The writer of this nomination had many a giggle at the number of submissions to government inquiries listed in each year's ISANA Annual Report – some notable ones are:

- Consultation Paper on the National Code Draft
- Standing Committee on Education and Employment: Inquiry into School to Work Transition
- Department of Immigration and Border Protection Policy Consultation Paper – Visa Simplification: Transforming Australia's Visa System
- Contributions to the Draft National International Education Strategy; National Report on Sexual Assault & Sexual Harassment at Australian Universities; the Effectiveness of the Current Temporary Skilled Visa System in targeting genuine skills shortages; and Growing International Education in Regional Australia

The writer has come up with the following legacies:

- Securing an EGI grant to develop and deliver an updated instructional tool for international education professionals to meet their obligations under the National Code 2018 (aka National Code Tutorial)
- Working in partnership with the Council of International Students Australia to develop and sign a MOU in September, 2018 (which was updated in October, 2022)

- Working in partnership with the International Education Association of Australia to develop and sign a MOU in October, 2022
- Securing an International Student Welfare Program grant to develop the 'ESOS for Students: Consumer Protection and the National Code: Empowering International Students' product – this product aims to enhance international students' understanding of ESOS and the National Code
- Representing ISANA at the International Student Experience – Association Roundtable and the Global Reputation Taskforce
- Representing ISANA on the Student Services Delivery Working Group of the Council of International Education
- Overseeing ISANA's first online conference in December, 2020 – aptly themed as 'Turning Challenges Into Opportunities'

I'll finish this nomination by quoting Bronwyn's parting words to the Membership in the 2021 Annual Report:

"If I can leave you with one clear message, it is to become involved. I have gained so much from my role with ISANA which grew my understanding of this industry and allowed me to participate in decision-making events. And as I have heard many times, when you become a part of ISANA you suddenly realise these are truly 'your people'."