

ISANA Life Membership Nomination – 2019

ISANA Life Membership Nomination - Mary Ann Seow

Mary Ann Seow has been involved in international education since 2000. She arrived as an international student from Singapore to study at Finders University in Adelaide and has worked in the higher education sector in a variety of roles. These have included industrial relations, human resource management, academic teaching and research, international student services and corporate training. Her passion lies in working in the international education sector and collaborating with agencies, student groups and peers to assist and support international students and to advance research in international education.

Work with ISANA

Mary Ann was President of the South Australian ISANA branch from 2009-2013 and ISANA National President from 2014-2018 – as such, she has been a member of the ISANA National Council since 2009, currently serving as the immediate Past President.

As the ISANA President, Mary Ann represented the Association at stakeholder forums, led the direction and strategies and developed and managed key relationships both nationally and internationally. Mary Ann was invited onto the Student Service Delivery Working Group to consider Goal 2 of the '*National Strategy for International Education 2015*'. This Working Group provided advice and recommendations to the Expert Members of the Council for International Education on how to deliver the best possible experience for international students. She was also instrumental in securing funding through the Australian Government's Enabling Growth and Innovation Grants scheme for ISANA and International Education Knowledgebase to develop the National Code Tutorial to align with the 2018 changes to the National Code.

Mary Ann regularly develops and delivers ISANA preconference workshops; is a valuable contributor to other professional development activities; and is trusted by ISANA to project manage ISANA-funded projects. Most recently, she was a member of the 2018 National Conference Organising Committee and is currently Co-Convenor of the 2019 National Conference Organising Committee.

Dedication to international students

"It helps if you have very passionate people in the sector. We become the advocates, the liaisons, the go-betweens for the students. We're up against challenges where mainstream communities, businesses, government policy people don't have the experience that people who work in the sector do and are passionate about students as human beings."

Mary Ann in an interview by Anton Crace The PIE News, 22 March 2017.

Testimonials

"Mary Ann delivered endless energy, insight, enthusiasm, and concern for every student, working diligently to ensure that all had optimal opportunities to succeed. Flinders University and the many people she advised are all the better for having the benefit of her experience, wisdom, and caring."

Andy Lehrer, Ph.D.

"I worked with Mary Ann over a period of several years both within her research grants officer role and her student advisory role. I found her to be very knowledgeable about the University's policies and procedures and she assisted me in gaining several grants for the research centre I worked for. Her relationship with students was one of caring and nurturing and I would recommend her exceptional people management skills."

Ann Braybon - former colleague University of South Australia."