

# Candidates for the Staff-elected Member of the Monash University Council

*Please note that these candidates are listed in alphabetical order by last name.*

## **Mehrdad Arashpour**

I am standing for election to Monash University Council as an academic member because I believe strong universities depend on strong governance, meaningful representation, and a genuine commitment to their communities.

Monash is a diverse and globally connected institution, and I want to contribute constructively to it, bringing an academic perspective grounded in collegiality, evidence, and a commitment to the public purpose of higher education.

My priority is supporting a university culture where students and staff from all backgrounds can participate, thrive and contribute, and where decisions are transparent, accountable and informed by those most affected by them.

Above all, I aim to strengthen university governance with a long-term focus on Monash's academic mission and community. I will approach Council responsibilities independently and constructively, seeking to build consensus.

I am seeking your support to help build a stronger Monash with good governance that enables our students, staff and academic community to flourish.

## **Philip Chan**

I am seeking election to Monash University Council because I believe my experience in academic leadership, research, governance and university service would enable me to make a constructive contribution to the University's future. I have 28 years of academic experience, with last twelve at Monash, during which I have built an international research profile while contributing extensively to the broader academic community. For instance, I have served as a grant assessor for the ARC and international funding agencies, journal reviewer, external promotions and tenure assessor, and PhD thesis examiner. At Monash, I have contributed to academic assessment and promotion processes across multiple disciplines within the Faculty of Science. These roles have given me a broad understanding of academic quality, research strategy, and institutional performance.

As a former Associate Head of Postgraduate Studies in the School of Chemistry and current Director of an ARC ITTC, I have also gained a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing a leading research-intensive university. I recognise the importance of maintaining academic excellence, supporting our people, and strengthening our international competitiveness.

If elected, I will bring an independent and considered perspective to Council, listen carefully to staff and students, work constructively with different viewpoints, and contribute to

decisions that reflect Monash's long-term interests. I am committed to strengthening Monash as a leading global university through excellence in education and research, innovation, industry engagement, and development of our people. I would be honoured to contribute my experience and commitment to Monash through service on Council.

## **Rochelle Hine**

Employed as a Senior Lecturer at Gukwonderuk Indigenous Health Workforces Centre within FMNHS, I am a non-Indigenous social work academic with expertise in mental health, currently specialising in Indigenous health equity, guided by Aboriginal leadership. I commenced at Monash University in 2020 in a teaching and research position at Monash Rural Health, becoming an NTEU Branch Committee Member in 2024.

Over the past two years, staff voice has been silenced within Monash Council. The election of a Dean as our staff representative who's out of touch with staff interests and has failed to consult, means that abhorrent University governance issues at Monash have gone unchallenged.

Staff at Monash believe in universities' fundamental role as places of knowledge and learning. We value our contribution to building the workforces of tomorrow in health, arts, science, education, engineering, law and beyond. We are sick of the focus on corporatisation and commercialisation; knowledge and education viewed as commodities. We are at the cutting edge of research and innovation and yet we expend over \$12m per year on consultants. Our University budget shows a \$200 million surplus, yet we are convicted of wage theft, denying fair pay to sessional staff who can least afford to be underpaid in a cost-of-living crisis.

If elected I will advocate for ethical decision-making, accountability and transparency. I'm committed to broad consultation, elevating your issues to enrich conditions for staff and resource us to shape a better future for all.

## **Christina Mitchell**

I am enthusiastically standing for election to Monash University Council as a staff representative. Monash is an exceptional university, operating in an increasingly complex environment. Government policy, financial pressures, technological change and evolving expectations of the university sector, and our staff, require experienced, thoughtful governance. Our future will depend increasingly on how well connected we are across faculties and portfolios, with industry, government, health services, communities, other universities, institutes and international partners. As a former Dean, I have seen how bringing different disciplines, cultures, expertise and organisations together, creates opportunities for staff and students, strengthens our research, enterprise and education, and translates our work into benefits for society. I have spent much of my career at Monash University as a researcher, educator, Head of Department, Head of School and, most recently, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences. I have also worked as a clinician in major public hospitals. I have led one of Monash's largest and most complex faculties which has provided me with broad experience in management across education, research, partnerships, international engagement and enterprise, leading to a real appreciation of the contribution of our academic and professional staff. If elected, I will use my experience to advocate for staff priorities, ensuring that fair workloads, culture, and

support for staff remain at the forefront of Council decisions. I will listen carefully to staff, to ensure their views are heard at Council, and support decisions that strengthen our Monash staff and students' experience.

## **Jay Phillips**

I seek election to University Council to contribute wide-ranging higher education governance experience and a strong commitment to institutional excellence and accountability. While I joined Monash University in August 2024, I bring almost a decade of governance experience from a large regional Australian university, serving continuously on university committees, including Academic Senate, the University Courses Committee and Faculty Boards.

Additionally, I was appointed to a range of governance and advisory bodies, including the University Research Committee, the Human Research Ethics Committee, and major institution-wide strategic initiatives. Notably, I contributed to my previous university's implementation of recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. As part of this work, I authored the university's compulsory mandatory reporting training module in 2022. This module has since been completed by over 35,000 staff and students, reflecting my ability to communicate complexity with clarity while addressing issues of vulnerability, safety and institutional responsibility.

At Monash, I have served on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Ethics Sub-Committee (2024-2025) and as Co-Chair of the Monash University Indigenous Congress (2026). These roles have strengthened my understanding of Monash's governance environment and strategic priorities.

My standpoint is informed by extensive experience working across Indigenous and non-Indigenous governance contexts. I understand the importance of balancing strategic ambition with cultural responsiveness, evidence-informed decision-making and meaningful engagement. If elected, I will provide thoughtful, independent and constructive contributions to support Monash's long-term success and purpose while honouring its commitment to social justice and the public good.

## **Daniel Price**

I am a Professor of astrophysics in the School of Physics and Astronomy. I have been on staff at Monash for 18 years and have been deeply involved in both teaching at all year levels and in running a research group here. I am nominating as a staff rep. One of my main concerns is that top-level decisions are made frequently at Monash without any staff consultation but which frontline staff then have to deal with the fallout from (Nimbus procurement is a recent good example). My aim is to see these kinds of decision-making processes improved, to build a better Monash for all of us.

## **Theresa Walsh**

Hi colleagues, I'm Theresa Walsh, Director of Health, Safety & Wellbeing at Monash University. I bring more than a decade of leadership experience across the higher education sector, including Monash, the University of Melbourne and RMIT. My governance capability is supported by formal training as a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), and I am standing for Council because I believe strong governance is critical to Monash's long-term success.

Over the past three years at Monash, I have worked across our Faculties, Divisions and Australian campuses, with regular engagement across the broader Monash Group, including Monash College, Malaysia, Indonesia, Suzhou and Prato. This breadth of experience has given me a strong understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing our University and the diverse communities we serve.

My perspective is shaped by more than professional staff leadership, as I have also worked as a casual lecturer and studied as both a part-time and full-time student, providing firsthand insight into the experiences of staff and students across the sector.

I recently completed the Leading@Monash program and previously served as President of the Australasian University Safety Association (AUSA). Through these roles, I have developed extensive experience in governance, strategy, stakeholder engagement and organisational improvement.

I am committed to equity, diversity, inclusion and Indigenous learning, and to ensuring staff perspectives are represented thoughtfully and constructively. If elected, I will bring independent thinking, principled decision-making and a strong commitment to Monash's future success and institutional integrity.