



Board Elections 2025 - Board Member & Role Nominations 2026-2027

Candidate Pack

COMPILED BY THE SPENCE CLUB BOARD 2025



Introduction:

Dear Spence Club Member,

Thank you for participating in our Board Elections and taking the time to read the following applications we've received from an impressive list of nominees who wish to join the Spence Club Board.

We are seeking to appoint (or re-appoint) a number of these self-nominated candidates to the Spence Club Board or as Volunteers to serve a two-year term 2025-2027.

Please read and consider these applications and cast your votes for your preferred candidates via our voting portal (which you will have received via email).

Member voting closes at 6pm, Friday 10 October 2025. Outcomes will be announced at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday 15 October, which is being held online, 5:30-6:30pm (free to attend, all members encouraged to join).

Yours sincerely

The Spence Club Inc. Board

2025 Applications Summary:

Name & LinkedIn	Position	Employer	Applying for:
Mandy Azzam LinkedIn	Customer Delivery Team Leader	AICD	• General Board Member
Alexandra Beal LinkedIn	Associate	HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	• General Board Member • Secretary
Emma Dignon LinkedIn	Senior Marketing and Communications Officer	LG Professionals SA	• General Board Member
Brittany Duregon LinkedIn	Senior Associate	Mellor Olsson Lawyers	• General Board Member
Katie Jansen LinkedIn	General Manager - Inventory & Supply Chain	Liebherr Australia	• General Board Member
Beth Shimmin LinkedIn	Senior Strategic Projects & Comms Specialist	The University of Adelaide	• General Board Member • Chairperson
Mimi Sia LinkedIn	Senior Project Officer	University of South Australia	• General Board Member • Treasurer
Rosemary Simper LinkedIn	Marketing Manager	Fivecast	• General Board Member • Secretary
Gabriela Vasconcelos LinkedIn	Marketing & Communication Officer	Volunteering SA&NT	• General Board Member
Katarina Watkins LinkedIn	Solicitor	Wallmans Lawyers	• General Board Member

Name: Mandy Azzam

Position: Customer Delivery Team Leader

Employer: AICD

Position/s applied for: General Board Member

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

One of my goals is to join a board and I would be very proud to become a Spence Club Board Member. Spence Club's mission and vision is closely aligned to my values and I love being part of this 'women empowering women' networking club, especially being a non-for profit. I also work for AICD and good governance is the core of everything we do and I believe this opportunity would allow me to expand my skills and experience.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

This will be my first board role however, I have been working at AICD for the past 12 months and gained insights and knowledge as the courses we deliver teach good governance to board directors. I am interested in assisting with Spence Club events which I also have extensive experience from both my current role and previous roles. I am also part of the AICD Social committee and Health and wellbeing committee. I believe I can add positivity and bring value to the board.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience.

I have been involved in committees over the years. I am currently a member of AICD's social committee and the Health and Wellbeing committee. I was previously a social club committee member at Bendigo Bank during my employment.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I am interested in empowering women through networking opportunities for career growth. I am also interested in adding value to Spence Club events in order to increase our profit to our preferred charity.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mandy-azzam>

~ Mandy Azzam Application Ends ~

Name: Alexandra Beal

Position: Associate

Employer: HWL Ebsworth Lawyers

Position/s applied for: General Board Member, Secretary

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

I am very excited to apply for the Spence Club Board. I love being part of the Spence membership and have found a sense of community through regularly attending Spence's events (and dragging along as many colleagues as possible)! Spence is genuinely my favourite networking organisation and I look forward to attending the events and getting to know the Board and members more each time. I would love to be more involved in and contribute back to the general operations of Spence. I find that the values and mission of Spence are very genuinely embodied by the members of the Board and reflected within the membership generally. The inclusive culture of Spence attracts such a diverse and impressive group of women. I have found this very inspiring and exciting, especially as someone relatively early in their career. I really value the connections that I have made through Spence so far, and hope that I can strengthen and grow those further through joining the Spence Club Board.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

I am currently an associate at HWLE Lawyers, with almost 4 years post-qualification experience. At a high level, this role includes coordinating general file management and strategy, client communications and court attendances. Being the only associate in my team, I am often the 'middle man' between the juniors and seniors and happily fill any gaps as needed. I am detail oriented and a stickler for file management, including keeping track of Court and statutory deadlines, ensuring clear and consistent record keeping across different files and general oversight over administrative processes. Although I do not have any prior board experience, my experience and legal expertise means I have developed an appreciation for confidentiality, communication standards, governance and compliance obligations. I am eager to further develop my skills and understanding through membership with the Spence Board. I am very flexible and willing to have a go at anything and contribute in any way possible.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience.

I am currently an associate at HWLE Lawyers, with almost 4 years post-qualification experience. At a high level, this role includes coordinating general file management and strategy, client communications and court attendances. Being the only associate in my team, I am often the 'middle man' between the juniors and seniors and happily fill any gaps as needed. I am detail oriented and a stickler for file management, including keeping track of Court and statutory deadlines, ensuring clear and consistent record keeping across different files and general oversight over administrative processes. Although I do not have any prior board experience, my experience and legal expertise means I have developed an appreciation for confidentiality, communication standards, governance and compliance obligations. I am eager to further develop my skills and understanding through membership with the Spence Board. I am very flexible and willing to have a go at anything and contribute in any way possible.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I have a strong interest in social justice and advocacy. Spence, in executing its vision and purpose, brings together professional women who may not otherwise cross paths, in a way that they can connect and uplift each other in both formal and informal capacities. I consider that Spence Club's values and objectives of altruism and advocacy align perfectly with my own passions as well as my enthusiasm for social connection. Additionally, for the reasons outlined in response to question 4, the community created by Spence is invaluable for members (particularly women who are relatively new in their respective professions). I really believe in the importance of facilitating that sense of community so that strong connections can be built between members that align with the values embodied by Spence.

LinkedIn: <https://au.linkedin.com/in/alexandra-beal-62024>

~ Alexandra Beal Application Ends ~

Name: Emma Dignon

Position: Senior Marketing and Communications Officer

Employer: LG Professionals SA

Position/s applied for: General Board Member

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

I am passionate about professional development and creating opportunities for people to connect and grow. This has been a consistent thread throughout my career - from my current role at LG Professionals SA, to initiatives such as founding a student writing program, serving on the PRIA SA State Committee, and advising the University of Adelaide's Fashion Collective. I am deeply invested in Adelaide and love celebrating the achievements of others, something I have done for years through my blog The Iconic Blonde, highlighting local talent, events, and culture. I bring skills in strategy, governance, marketing, communications, and media management, with experience engaging diverse audiences and delivering purposeful, impactful initiatives. A Spence Club member in 2017, I am excited to reconnect with greater experience and energy, giving back to a community I admire while helping it thrive as a platform that connects, develops, and inspires women leaders.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

My career has centred on strategic communications that inspire, connect, and drive outcomes. I am Senior Marketing and Communications Officer at LG Professionals SA, a membership-based not-for-profit, where I lead strategy and campaigns that engage members, build brand, and foster a community of lifelong learning. Recently, I was Communications Adviser at SA Water, directing the Eyre Peninsula Water Security plan, requiring governance awareness, project leadership, and multi-stakeholder engagement. At the City of Marion, I led award-winning campaigns, managed large budgets, and delivered a 2 year internal communications strategy. Earlier roles at Pernod Ricard, UniSA's Innovation & Collaboration Centre, and Rhetoric PR, plus running my own consultancy, built expertise in marketing, brand, stakeholder engagement, governance, and partnerships. I bring strategic leadership, communications expertise, relationship building, and a strong commitment to celebrating and supporting women in SA.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience.

While I do not yet have formal Board experience, that is exactly why I am motivated to join the Spence Club Board - to step into governance, learn from accomplished peers, and contribute meaningfully with my skills. I have built strong leadership experience through serving on the PRIA SA State Committee, advising the University of Adelaide's Fashion Collective, and leading a student writing program, all of which gave me exposure to governance, stakeholder engagement, and purposeful strategy. In my current role at LG Professionals SA, I work closely with networks, committees, and senior leaders across local government, deepening my understanding of governance and strengthening my ability to manage projects, facilitate collaboration, and deliver outcomes. I have also collaborated with leaders such as Megan Down, Zviko Masiwa, Libby Trainor Parker, Ilona Shultz, and Sian Dodd, whose involvement with Spence Club has shown me the impact this community has across industries.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I am passionate about building communities where women can connect, access support, and thrive. I value open conversations around gender equity and pay transparency, empowering women to make educated decisions - aligning closely with Spence Club's values of equity and inclusivity. Professionally, I am focused on breaking down barriers to networking and enhancing member experiences. With expertise in communications, brand building, and using data to craft member journeys, I can help foster genuine connections and create career-shaping opportunities. Personally, my lived experience of domestic child and adult abuse has allowed me to support women with ongoing advice. As a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community, I have also advocated for policy-driven inclusion. Beyond this, I champion SA arts, covering the Adelaide Fringe annually through my podcast Fringe Benefits. These passions reflect Spence Club's mission to connect, inspire, and empower women leaders across industries.

Do you have any other comments or information to support your application?

On Fridays, I share a wrap up of Marketing, comms, media and PR jobs to my network to further provide connection within my industry and share opportunities that some might not otherwise be aware of.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/emma-dignon

~ Emma Dignon Application Ends ~

Name: Brittany Duregon
Position: Senior Associate
Employer: Mellor Olsson Lawyers
Position/s applied for: General Board Member

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

After knowing about Spence Club for some time, I was excited to finally join in 2024. From the very first event, I was welcomed with warmth and genuine kindness, which immediately set the tone for what has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Spence Club creates a space where like-minded women from diverse industries and backgrounds come together to build meaningful professional connections. It's a truly inclusive and supportive environment, one where encouragement, collaboration and authenticity thrive. Over the past 18 months, I've had the pleasure of attending inspiring events, connecting with remarkable women, and witnessing firsthand the positive impact this community has. I've been so impressed that I've encouraged others to join, knowing they'll be met with the same enriching experience. Now, I feel ready to give back to Spence Club. I'm excited about the opportunity to contribute my skills as a Board Member and help support the continued growth and success of Spence Club.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

I hold a Bachelor of Laws and Commerce (Management) from the University of Adelaide, where I had the incredible opportunity to study International Human Rights Law through an intensive course at the University of Oxford. I later completed a Masters of Legal Practice at the Australian National University, further deepening my legal expertise. I am a Senior Associate at Mellor Olsson Lawyers, specialising in personal injury law, including complex medical negligence claims. My practice spans a broad range of legal areas, and I've recently expanded into governance. Throughout my legal career, I've developed a strong foundation in risk management, strategic decision making, and organisational leadership. These skills, combined with my commitment to collaboration, make me excited about the opportunity to contribute to Spence Club in a more active capacity.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience.

Since January 2023, I have been a Committee Member on the Law Society of South Australia's Civil Litigation and Accident Compensation Committees. These Committees assist in identifying key issues relevant to specific practice areas, preparing submissions to draft legislation, government policy initiatives and discussion papers, and engaging with the Judiciary and other interested parties. In June 2024, I was part of the organising committee for the 10x10 Philanthropy event. An impactful evening where three grassroots not-for-profit organisations pitched their missions in a "Shark Tank" style format. Our committee selected The Village Co, KYUP Project and Food on the Table to present, with Sean Fewster joining as our "Shark". The event was a resounding success, raising \$29,000 to support these impactful causes.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I am passionate about empowering women to reach and remain in leadership roles. Women bring a unique blend of skills, perspectives and approaches that are essential to inclusive and effective leadership across all industries. In my own profession, the legal field is now predominantly female in numbers, yet leadership and executive roles continue to be disproportionately held by men. I am committed to mentoring younger female practitioners, helping them navigate their careers and supporting their journey toward leadership. This aligns closely with Spence Club's values of Connection, Equity, and Inclusivity, as well as its purpose to empower and retain female talent in South Australia. By fostering genuine relationships, advocating for cultural change, and supporting professional development, I hope to contribute meaningfully to Spence Club's mission and help extend its impact across industries.

Do you have any other comments or information to support your application?

From 2017 to 2021, I served on the King William Road Trader's Association, beginning as a Committee Member before taking on the role of Secretary and then later Treasurer. The Association was dedicated to promoting the precinct and supporting local traders through events, marketing initiatives and the administration of approximately \$145,000 in annual funding collected via Special Levy. This role gave me valuable insight into stakeholder engagement, financial oversight, and community development.

I'm particularly drawn to the Membership Committee, where I see great potential to expand our reach, foster engagement, and continue building a vibrant network of like-minded women. I'm eager to help grow and strengthen the Spence Club community, ensuring it remains a welcoming and empowering space for all members.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/brittany-duregon-b9b230137/>

~ Brittany Duregon Application Ends ~

Name: Katie Jansen

Position: General Manager - Inventory & Supply Chain

Employer: Liebherr Australia

Position/s applied for: General Board Member

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

I am very passionate about two things that the Spence Club represents, inclusion and community. Joining the Board would be an opportunity to both share and grow my knowledge and experience in creating space and opportunity for others.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

My experience as a senior leader over the last 10 years has allowed me to develop a range of skills that would positively contribute in the role of General Board Member. I am a proactive, empathetic and strategic person with well developed enterprise thinking skills and experience. I have organised and chaired two panel discussions on D&I while also running a quarterly women's networking event [for the last 3 years], I am the companies Australian representative for female empowerment and sit on committees for D&I and Apprentice Selection. I am passionate about community, having moved from Queensland on my own to SA at a young age in order to begin my career, and having moved into executive roles at a young age, I understand the importance of a network and how valuable connection is. My interest in Memberships and communication is driven by where my skills could be of best use to the club.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience, if applicable.

I have not worked on a Board before, I have only participated in internal board meetings with Liebherr.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I am most interested in building community in order to give people the support needed to be bold in their pursuit of change or self-development. All things are easier when people have support and connection through the right networks. Through my membership with Spence Club I have been able to see that this is a value that is shared across the Board and Community.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katie-jansen-0666a4131/?originalSubdomain=au>

~ Katie Jansen Application Ends ~

Name: Beth Shimmin

Position: Senior Strategic Projects & Communications Specialist

Employer: The University of Adelaide

Position/s applied for: General Board Member, Chair

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

I am so fortunate to be the current Spence Club Board Chairperson and my first 2-year term will expire at this year's AGM. I therefore seek to continue my tenure as I wish to keep building on the fantastic momentum we have developed for Spence Club in recent years. We have a vision for Spence Club and there are many projects underway in support of it – as well as many that are planned – that I wish to continue driving to fulfilment as Chair. I strongly believe in the Club's mission and values – it's such an important and unique offering in the female networking space in Adelaide – and I am extremely motivated to continue contributing to its growth, value for members, and philanthropic endeavours. I genuinely love the Club, our community, and our culture, and am wholeheartedly committed to ensuring its continued success by rolling up my sleeves to get things done, volunteering my time, utilising my network, and leading with kindness.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

The five most relevant things I will bring if re-elected are: 1. Direct working experience on the Board and intimate knowledge of the Club's operations (i.e. I have been a Spence Club Member since 2022, Board Member since October 2023 and was voted to be Chair in May 2024. During this time, I have worked on several projects that have contributed to new and/or improved ways of working for the Club and have extensive corporate knowledge of the Club's and Board's operations); 2. Broad experience across a variety of industries and roles (see my attached CV and LinkedIn); 3. A diverse relevant skill (including events, projects, marketing, comms, membership); 4. An expansive network I will lean on (i.e. I've brought in personal contacts as speakers, venue partners and volunteers during my tenure); and extensive leadership skills and experience, particularly in volunteer-run / NFP spaces (including women's sport and the arts).

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience.

In addition to the experience mentioned, I have extensive experience serving on organising committees, in working groups and as a volunteer. For example, I am currently a volunteer member of the RISE Committee the University of Adelaide (UoA) - a group that organises events and social activities for the Division of External Engagement) and I volunteer as a mentor for UoA's Women's Professional Development Network. I have been the volunteer Head Coach for the Senior Division of the Matrics Premier League Netball Club since 2019 and manage the communications and operations of the AMND League (the level below the Premier League) involving five teams of ten players and six other coaches. I have also sat on fundraising and sponsorship committees of other netball clubs and directed teams of volunteers to secure funds and partners. When at the Clemenger Group, I was a member of the procurement committee of the RAP working group, and also a member of the DE&I Working Group.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I am passionate about gender equality and achieving equal rights for women, including closing the gender pay gap. I wish to continue helping to lift up other women and passing on the knowledge and expertise I have learned from decades in professional environments and from working in a male-dominated companies, organisations and industries. I am keen to retain strong female talent in South Australia and be part of a group that champions women from across all industries and with a variety of backgrounds. Furthermore, as someone who grew up in lower socio-economic circumstances than many, I am very motivated to help create platforms, opportunities and environments for others, particularly younger women and emerging female leaders, who may come from similar circumstances and help them thrive. This is why I also strongly support Spence Club's mission to raise funds for charity partners, especially as they are aligned with supporting women in need.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/bethshimmin>

~ Beth Shimmin Application Ends ~

Name: Rosemary Simper
Position: Marketing Manager
Employer: Fivecast

Position/s applied for: General Board Member, Secretary, Events Committee Chair

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

I joined the Spence Club because it was full of inspiring, like-minded women and I was seeking a supportive network to guide me through my transition from a long policing career to Marketing Manager at Fivecast. The generosity, insights, and encouragement I received showed me the difference a strong, connected community of women can make and inspired me to support others in turn. Now, having established myself in a new field, I am excited to give back as a Board member. I am passionate about strengthening the Club, expanding membership, mentoring women, and helping women across South Australia develop professionally, build confidence, access guidance, and benefit from the same supportive network that has helped me. I would love to help drive initiatives that grow the Club's impact, visibility, and opportunities for women.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

I bring leadership, governance, and communications experience from policing and marketing. As Staff Officer to the Deputy Commissioner of SAPOL, I managed crisis communications, provided strategic advice, and represented SAPOL in high-level stakeholder forums. I led initiatives including a procurement and contract process valued at over \$100 million across five agencies, COVID-19 arrangements to safeguard prisoners, and reviews of custody standards, giving me strong skills in compliance, strategic planning, and stakeholder engagement. In marketing, I specialise in digital content, social media, website management, and campaigns, equipping me to support communications, membership, and event initiatives. Combined with committee experience in sports and hospital projects, I am well placed to contribute across the Board and its committees, supporting growth, engagement, and empowerment for women across South Australia.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience, if applicable.

I served six years as a Publicity Officer for the South Australia Police Sports Federation, promoting wellbeing programs, managing grants for national and international competitions, and overseeing communications for 1,800+ members. I also served three years as a committee member and Treasurer for the Flinders Medical Centre Police Link Committee, coordinating events, donations, gifts, and volunteer activities to support children in the paediatric ward, including special visits at Christmas, Easter, and the Royal Adelaide Show. Both roles required adaptability, teamwork, and stepping beyond formal responsibilities to achieve meaningful outcomes. These experiences strengthened my skills in communications, membership promotion, event management, governance, and community engagement. I would bring the same energy, commitment, and collaborative spirit to the Spence Club Board to grow membership, enrich our community, and create opportunities for women across South Australia.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I am deeply committed to protecting vulnerable people and creating pathways for women to thrive. In policing, I saw the devastating impacts of domestic violence - affecting one in four women in Australia, and how isolation makes it worse. That experience drives my passion for building strong networks where women feel supported, connected, and empowered. Spence Club embodies that vision. I admire how it supports initiatives like Catherine House while creating opportunities for women to connect, grow their confidence, and aspire to leadership. My background spans leadership in law enforcement, government, and corporate sectors, sharpening my commitment to advancing female leadership. Combined with skills in communications, digital engagement, and events, I can help Spence Club expand its reach so even more South Australian women benefit from its networks and opportunities.

Do you have any other comments or information to support your application?

I bring experience in governance, stakeholder engagement, crisis management, and committee leadership, having led major initiatives across policing and marketing. I hold the South Australia Police Service Medal and National Police Service Medal, recognising my commitment to public service and community impact. I am passionate about supporting women and vulnerable communities, having seen firsthand the difference strong networks and mentorship can make. Spence Club's focus on empowering women, building connections, and giving back resonates deeply with me. I am excited to contribute to growing membership, strengthening engagement, and creating opportunities for women across South Australia to develop professionally, build confidence, and benefit from the supportive, inspiring community that has been invaluable to me.

Regarding committee preferences: My first preference is Communications, where I can bring experience in stakeholder communications, marketing, digital content, website and LinkedIn management. In my marketing role, I increased campaign performance by 37% and boosted LinkedIn followers and engagement by 52%, demonstrating my ability to grow visibility and engagement, which can be applied to Club communications. My second preference is Membership, reflecting experience promoting memberships and building engagement, including securing tens of thousands of dollars of funding for the South Australia Police Sports Federation. My third preference is Events, as I have coordinated committee and community events, managing logistics, budgets, and volunteer coordination. My final preference is Projects, drawing on experience leading complex initiatives in both government and marketing. I am comfortable contributing to any committee, and my wide-ranging experience equips me to add value across the Board.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/rosemarysimper

~ Rosemary Simper Application Ends ~

Name: Mimi Sia

Position: Senior Project Officer

Employer: University of South Australia

Position/s applied for:

General Board Member, Treasurer

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

I'm passionate about supporting Women in Business and giving back through service. With a background in accounting and financial management, I've volunteered my time to help individuals strengthen their financial foundations and grow with purpose. Joining the board would allow me to deepen that impact—bringing practical expertise, integrity, and a genuine commitment to advancing women in the business community.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

Fellow Certified Practising Accountant (FCPA), Senior Accountant.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience, if applicable.

Current South Australian CPA councillor, 2023-2024 Treasurer of Burnside Primary School Council

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

Developing future leaders, promoting local events, exchanging skills and knowledge and creating networking opportunities for women.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/mimi-sia-fcpa-364861150

~~ Mimi Sia Application Ends ~~

Name: Gabriela Vasconcelos

Position: Marketing & Communication Officer

Employer: Volunteering SA&NT

Position/s applied for: General Board Member

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

As a migrant woman, I've experienced both the challenges and opportunities of building a professional life in South Australia. I'm passionate about helping other women, especially those from diverse backgrounds, feel seen, supported, and empowered in their careers. Spence Club's mission deeply resonates with me, and I see joining the Board as a meaningful way to give back to a community that uplifts women across industries. With a background in communications and marketing, I bring strategic and creative skills that can support the Club's visibility, engagement, and growth. I'm excited by the opportunity to help shape inclusive narratives, strengthen our brand presence, and ensure more women see Spence Club as a place where they belong and can thrive.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

I'm a communications and marketing professional with 10+ years of experience delivering strategic campaigns, digital content, and events across the not-for-profit, consulting, and corporate sectors. In my current role at Volunteering SA&NT, I create inclusive campaigns, manage digital platforms, and promote volunteering across SA and NT. Previously at SynergyIQ, I led multi-channel campaigns, coordinated 15+ events, and produced a podcast with over 100 guests and 33,000+ downloads, strengthening brand visibility and engagement. I'd bring these skills to the Marketing & Communications and Events Committees to support member engagement, elevate the Club's profile, and ensure our content reflects the diversity and ambition of our membership. As a migrant woman, I'm passionate about inclusive leadership and committed to making Spence Club a welcoming, empowering space for all women.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience, if applicable.

I've been volunteering for Spence Club in the past 3 months, supporting the comms committee and that has been a great experience to learn more about the club and add value with my Communications and Marketing skills.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I'm passionate about gender equity, inclusive leadership, and retaining diverse talent in South Australia. As a migrant woman, I'm particularly interested in addressing the barriers faced by culturally and linguistically diverse women and creating more supportive pathways into leadership. I'm also deeply engaged in the power of storytelling and strategic communications to build visibility, confidence, and connection among women. Platforms like Spence Club play a vital role in helping women see themselves as leaders, by amplifying diverse voices, building meaningful networks, and creating space for growth. These interests strongly align with Spence Club's mission to support high-achieving South Australian women, foster an encouraging intellectual environment, and promote inclusive leadership. I'm committed to helping more women, from all backgrounds, feel empowered to lead, connect, and thrive in SA.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gabriela-vasconcelos/>

~~ Gabriela Vasconcelos Application Ends ~~

Name: Katarina Watkins
Position: Solicitor
Employer: Wallmans Lawyers

Position/s applied for: General Board Member

Why would you like to join the Spence Club Board?

I joined Spence Club over 12 months ago now. I have been to a few Spence Club events, including the 2024 AGM. My experience with Spence Club has been fantastic, the board members, and other members of the Club at each event I have attended have made a noticeable effort to get to know me and make me feel welcome and a true part of Spence Club. I believe Spence Club has a unique offering, being the reputation and “feel” it has built which is one that is welcoming, inclusive and incredibly supportive. It provides a great platform for women to support and uplift each other. This is something I would really like to be a part of and be able to contribute to, and I would like to help the Club to grow and provide a supportive platform for many more women.

Please outline your relevant professional experience/skills to demonstrate your suitability for the Spence Club Board role/s and committee/s you are interested in.

Over the last three years, I have been working as a lawyer predominantly in the area of corporate governance for several small, medium and large non-profit organisations. This work involves advising on duties of board members owed to their organisation and members, proper meeting and decision-making procedure, best, modern governance practices, and ways to build an appropriately skilled, efficient, legally compliant, and cohesive Board to achieve the goals of the organisation. Due to this experience, I would also be able to provide general legal compliance, and strategic considerations to the Board. Additionally, much of my legal work comprises matter management and coming up with strategies to achieve desired outcomes, as well as working closely with people (other lawyers / clients), being skills which I think I could apply well to my role on the Spence Club board.

Please provide information about your current/previous board or/and committee experience, if applicable.

I currently sit on the Wallmans Lawyers social club, which involves event planning, management, execution, and oversight / running of the event, and working closely with other members of the committee to do so. I recently coordinated an event of approximately 35 attendees, which was really successful, and taught me a lot about event coordination.

What issues are you interested in? How do these align to the Spence Club and its objectives/values?

I am very passionate about supporting women in professional roles, and encouraging women to engage with other women in professional industries to share their experiences, learnings and advice. I believe that engaging with other women in professional roles can be highly beneficial for women to develop their confidence, and sense of self and belonging in professional roles. I believe this is particularly important for young women early on in their professional careers, as has been my experience, and I would love to encourage young women to join the Club, as a board member. As I have previously touched on, Spence Club offers a welcoming and inclusive environment which has inspired my confidence as a professional, I believe these values / achievements of Spence Club align with those issues I am interested in entirely.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/katarina-watkins-91740b210/>

~~ Katarina Watkins Application Ends ~~