South West Aboriginal Medical Service

Candidate profiles 2026

Lorraine **BENNELL**
My name is Lorraine Bennell nee Davis married to Richard Bennell and Elder in the south west for 58 years. I've worked for many years as a strong supporter in the needs for my people of my community. If elected as a Director of SWAMS, I promise to give my utmost best to make decisions on the stronger issues relating to the health of my people.
Murray **COLLARD**
Kaya my name is Murray Collard I am a proud Waadandi/Wilman Noongar man. My family names are Collard, Bennell, Hill and Abraham. I was born into the Burekup camps, then when I was around 4 years old our family as well as Granny moved into our first state houses in Waterloo. It is here I along with several other cousins started school where we had fun growing up together. Our family then moved into the suburb of Carey Park located in Bunbury where I attended Carey Park Primary School before going to Newton Moore Senior High School. Met my wife Donna with whom we had five girls and now have seven grandchildren. Along our life journey I worked at Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School for around ten years, before moving into the health industry starting as a transport driver with SWAMS before changing roles and became an Indigenous Outreach Worker. After ten years I needed a change and currently I work as an Aboriginal Mental Health Worker and Bunbury Community Mental Clinic
Patricia **HAYWARD (BENNELL)**
Ms Hayward is a Wardandi woman from Noongar country. Ms Hayward is currently working at Southern Aboriginal Corporation. She has held senior position in Aboriginal controlled organisations, has extensive experience in senior position in Education, Mental Health and Child Protection and is currently an active member of the Aboriginal Advisory Board for Australian Association of Social Work.
Robyn **McCREANOR**
Robyn McCreanor is a Koori woman from Mutawintji Country in New South Wales, who has lived on Bibbulmun Boodja (Manjimup) since 1992. She is a proud mother of two, grandmother of three, and is currently caring for two of her grandchildren. Her strong connection to family and community continues to guide her work and commitment to supporting local people. Robyn is a returning member of the SWAMS Board, having previously been a director for a decade.

In her time living in Manjimup, Robyn has built has strong connections in the community through her active involvement.
She established the region's first Indigenous playgroup while working at the Manjimup Family Centre and developed an Indigenous Protective Behaviours Program during her time at the Warren Blackwood Emergency Accommodation Centre.
Robyn currently works as an Education Assistant at East Manjimup Primary School, a Director of Walgenup Aboriginal Corporation and remains actively involved in the Shire of Manjimup Reconciliation Committee, the School Indigenous Adviser Group, and the Manjimup Yarning Circle (Waangka Danjoo Nyininy) Project Group.

Donna **TURVEY**

(Dr Martin Luther King Jnr August 28, 1963) "I have a dream"

Born in Collie, my Skin group consists of Wilman, Balladong and Yindjabarndi (Roeburn) clans with connections to the Karri Karrak and Yued nations. My language group is Beelagu (River people).

I have lived in Bunbury off and on for the past 34 years, During this time, I raised 3 children and worked as a Teacher, Registered Nurse, Remote Area Nurse and Directors on many other boards.

In 2005 I completed a Batchelor of Education/Teaching from Curtin University and then went on to complete a Batchelor of Nursing in 2015.

My Professional life has seen me travel the length and breadth of out great nation and to the USA in 2018 as a recipient of the Roberts Sykes Scholarship. This scholarship allowed me to attend John F. Kennedy Harvard University Business and Law School for Executives, and I got to stand in the 'American Hall of Presidents', I believe this was the start of my journey for Justice and equality for my people.

I currently work for Don Punch MLA for Bunbury and am currently enrolled to complete my Juris Doctor Post Graduate Degree in Corporate and Native Title Law in 2029.

Edmund Burke (1729-1797) once said – "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing")

Gwen **WESTON (GREY)**

Gwen Weston is a proud Wadandi woman from (Busselton), with strong family connections across the Southwest and Great Southern. Having lived most of her life in Busselton, Gwen is deeply committed to advocating for Aboriginal people, families and communities.
As a former SWAMS Board Member, Gwen brings valuable governance experience and proudly contributed to establishing the SWAMS Busselton Clinic.

With 10 years' experience in Aboriginal education and her current leadership role managing Aboriginal Ranger Programs at Karri Karrak Aboriginal Corporation, Gwen has demonstrated strong leadership, accountability and a commitment to creating opportunities for Aboriginal people.

I'm seeking your support to return to the SWAMS Board, bringing experience, cultural understanding and a genuine commitment to ensuring members' voices are heard.

My priority is simple: strong governance, culturally appropriate healthcare and better outcomes for our Aboriginal families, Elders and future generations.

Maxine WILLIAMS

Maxine Williams is a proud Wardandi woman, born and raised in Bunbury, with strong cultural connections throughout Noongar Boodjar.

Passionate about education and health as foundations for strong Aboriginal families and communities, Maxine brings valuable cultural knowledge, community connections and a commitment to culturally safe decision-making to the SWAMS Board.

Her career began in social services before she discovered a passion for education while working alongside Aunty Phyllis McGuire at Koala Pre-Primary. Over nearly 30 years, Maxine has supported Aboriginal students, families and communities across Western Australia, including at Djidi Djidi Aboriginal Primary School and as Executive Officer of Esperance's Aboriginal Education Committee and now as Aboriginal Culture and Language Coordinator at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School.

As a current SWAMS Board Director and member of the HealthHUB committee, Maxine brings deep cultural knowledge and a commitment to community-led, culturally safe decisions. Since April 2026, she has been working as one of the community elected Directors, contributing to the Board's progress in strengthening governance, accountability and effectiveness. Acknowledging there is still work to be done in this space, Maxine has renominated to continue this good work to regain community trust and corporate stability. Maxine has also recently completed governance training, building on her experience to support better health and education outcomes for Aboriginal families across the South West region.