

2024 International Election



Candidate for

Director – Administration

Kimberley Wilson

Australian Mensa

Campaign statement

I am an outgoing, friendly person who enjoys the company and friendship available to Mensa members throughout the world.

Like many organisations, Mensa is being challenged by society to keep up with the sweeping changes in the way people connect and what they expect from an organisation. The DofA must be technically capable and have a track record of being able to deliver solutions.

We also live in a world where people call lawyers too easily and as an organisation we need to make sure our governance and systems are transparent and sturdy. The DofA must have a good grip on such matters.

Finally, our organisation is multi-cultural, diverse and varied in the skill and development of each National group. The DofA must be able to work effectively with people from all areas of the world.

I have the temperament, capabilities and experience to address these three challenges. My skills in IT, experience in governance and track record of getting things done means I can meet or exceed these expectations.

If I haven't already met you at a gathering or helped you with your mensa.org problems, please ask your chairman about my suitability for the role.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kimberleyfordofa>

Biography

I am a 71 year old Australian, divorced, with 3 adult children.

I have a PhD in Applied Mathematics and worked for Shell International and others as a Petroleum Engineer and software developer. I ran my own Computer consultancy for over 25 years before retiring. However, I still have a few software projects going including working on a new Website for Australian Mensa.

I have been a Mensa member continuously since 2002 and a volunteer for multiple positions since then, including:

Australian Mensa: Membership Secretary, Chairman, WA State Secretary, Webmaster, SIGHT Coordinator. I have organised several Annual Mensa Conferences.

Mensa International: IBD member, IVN committee, ITC Advisory Committee/Web Board, User support, Director for 2024 IBD in Perth.

I have also held volunteer roles in other organisation including hockey and golf clubs. Secretary, Chairman, Ladies president.

I have represented my state in Hockey and Golf and Australia in Hockey.

Answers to IBD questions

1. What do you see as the most important aspect of the role for which you are standing?

The Director of Administration's duties are the oversight of the International Office, Publications, Direct International Members and volunteer committees and individuals.

The key to this role is to proactively seek ways to improve the day-to-day operation and provide rapid responses and enhanced functionality. If these jobs are done well, nobody notices, but if things go wrong it can have a big impact.

The current and previous DofAs have done a great job in these behind-the-scenes areas and I intend to continue their work.

As part of ExComm, the DofA must proactively contribute to policy discussions, work co-operatively with the other directors and ensure the smooth running of meetings with agendas, minutes and other documents.

2. Why have you volunteered for this role, and what in particular qualifies you for it?

During my term as Australian Chair, I put in place effective systems that take the organisation forward and set it up for future growth. I have overseen two migrations of our website, a change to our supervised test, introduction of on-line voting and made significant improvements in our governance, including development of ASIEs, numerous policies and a strategic plan. Membership has grown over 150% since I was elected.

At IBD meetings, I have made numerous presentations and been proactive in discussions. I have also been involved with Mensa International's IT systems as a member of the Web Board/ICT Advisory Committee and the user support team for the website.

I have attended many international gatherings and appreciate the diversity of our membership.

As the Director of Administration, I will continue to contribute to Mensa, where my experience and skill set can be used to move the organisation forward.

3. What do you see as the most important issues facing international Mensa at the present time and in the next few years?

Mensa is challenged as a global organisation that needs to move with the times. We must keep improving our online presence and exploit the global opportunities of technology, while competing with alternative platforms and social groups.

Internally, we need to consolidate and share our experience. Mensa is full of gifted people with a vast array of experience and expertise, doing useful things in their part of the world. Yet time and again, we see individual countries developing new policies, programs and systems from scratch, rather than building on that combined wisdom.

The Director of Administration can facilitate the exchange of both ideas, and more tangible aspects of building our organisation, between the different national Mensa groups. We also need to encourage individual members in the development of leadership and other personal skills.

4. What do you wish to achieve during your term of office?

- An updating and improvement of communications between Mensa and the public and between Mensa organisations in different countries. In particular, this will involve improving our on-line presence and systems.
- An active contribution to the policies and decisions of ExComm and the IBD, and the promotion of harmony and cooperation within those bodies.
- Encouragement and assistance for newer and smaller Mensas to get their own systems and processes in place and up to date.
- Improve the transparency in Mensa International and ExComm by making our policies, procedures and decisions available to all members, in a way that is easy for them to access, understand and implement for themselves.
- Support the Executive Director and Director of Development in their efforts to expand Mensa into new countries.
- Develop and set in place a system for national Mensa teams to share ideas and function as a global network rather than in isolation.