

# 2024 International Election



Candidate for

**Chairman**

**Therese Moodie-Bloom**

**Australian Mensa**

## Campaign statement

I joined Mensa 35 years ago and have held many offices since then. Internationally, I served on the IBD for 12 years, including six as Director of Administration; I served on the International General Council for six years; held several International Offices and memberships on MI committees; attended countless international meetings, and edited the Mensa International Journal. Nationally, I have held six of the positions on my national board, including Chairman/CEO.

I have grown more tolerant and much wiser due to these experiences. I am approachable, a good team coordinator, and have lived and worked with people of all religions, cultures, and ethnicities.

I continue to be passionate about the benefits Mensa provides for both members and the community. We have a unique and wonderful society, but it could be more. All our members have the intellectual potential to be great inventors or entrepreneurs; to create timeless works of Art, philosophies, or bestseller thrillers. In theory, there should be no limit to our members' achievements and contributions to the world and to humanity.

Let's help Mensa reach its own potential by drawing out the potential of our individual members.

I would be honoured to have your vote.

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## Biography

Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, with strong musical and philosophical childhood influences. My father read us Shakespearean tales to the background of my mother playing her classical pianoforte compositions.

Degree in Politics and Philosophy. Travelled widely, starting as a rock musician during the Vietnam war, followed by working tours of Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, The Philippines. I was an English tutor in Iran with the IIAF, a music tutor in Germany, and lived in the UK and the USA.

My eventual return to Australia was marred by ill-health and a long period of limited mobility. It was during this time that I joined Mensa, and a whole new world opened to me – a world of cerebral challenges replaced physical adventures!

I currently write a weekly column for our national broadsheet, The Australian, and provide original material for the Mensa World Journal, various magazines, and for charity fundraisers and websites.

## Answers to IBD questions

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

The crucial aspect of the role is to guide Mensa International through rapidly-changing social environments. We must retain political neutrality during uprisings and national conflicts; show acuity and foresight during rapid technological changes, and find safe, innovative ways to minimise the restrictions of plagues and pandemics. I congratulate our current ExComm on guiding Mensa, intact, through the widespread lockdowns and social isolation of the Pandemic.

The Chairman, or Chief Officer of Mensa International plays a pivotal role as the underlying glue – which binds the myriad parts of our organization together. This is done through the auspices of ExComm, members of the IBD, and our International Officers.

A large component of success therefore relies upon team-building, co-operation, and a thorough understanding of the infrastructure of an organization powered largely by a volunteer workforce. I believe I have those abilities and will

continue to put them to good use for Mensa.

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

At the most basic level, I would like to 'give back' to Mensa. I have benefited enormously from membership.

Infrastructure and member nations: I have learnt from the experiences of holding six different pivotal positions on the National Board; of serving twelve years on the IBD, (six on ExComm), and six on the MI General Council. I've held many national and International offices and served on several International Mensa Committees. I am aware of how Mensa operates both internationally and within its component nations.

I have attended approximately 23 IBD meetings, approximately 10 USAGs, and several regional gatherings and EMAGs in Europe and the Asia-Pacific, and have been privileged to experience the unique Mensa@Cambridge.

Individual members: Attendance at dozens of local Mensa meetings around the world, combined with my experiences prior to joining Mensa, I now have deep insights into the different religions and cultures of the world.

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

Our ever-changing world situations which have already presented challenges and will continue to do so:

- **Wars and conflicts between countries and political uprisings within nations.** We have members from every walk of life, religion and ethnicity and political stance. To serve all our members, we must retain our stance of neutrality as an organization.
- **Rapidly-changing technological advances.** These are constantly changing, and we must adapt to the world as it changes. We need to be on the cutting edge with the latest knowledge, but apply discretion as to which innovations we adopt to enhance our administration and member communication.
- **Plagues and Pandemics.** Our current IBD is to be commended for navigating a positive way through the lockdowns and isolation of Covid; for overcoming the lack of face-to-face board meetings, and the lack of social meetings in many countries. A challenge indeed for our Mensan leadership and progress!

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

Mensa International is a unique society which has upheld its Constitutional aims. We have been beneficial to members. But we could be more!

Constitutionally, we must accept all our members, as long as they meet the IQ eligibility requirements. This clearly includes members who are socially inept, members who are not particularly ethical, and many internet "trolls" and negative personalities who shoot down new ideas and belittle other members. How many potentially wonderful inventions, philosophies, works of art etc have died in their nascent stages because, when first floated by a member, they have been ridiculed?

We can help counteract this by encouraging the initiatives of members in various ways so that their creative potential can be nurtured. This could include providing "sounding boards" for new ideas, and of ensuring recognition of the developed innovations – recognition not only within Mensa but acknowledgment and awards from national governmental entities.