



WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE (WHS) MEMBERSHIP

The current membership of the Workplace Health and Safety Committee is 6 members
(as at *July 2024*) –

Dr. Ruth Ferraro	Chair, Interim President
Associate Professor Jotsana Roopram	Secretary, Campus Director (Sydney)
Jason Whitfield	Chief Technology Officer
Associate Professor Seán O’Hanlon	Campus Director (Melbourne)
Aqeel Asad	Acting Campus Director (Adelaide)
Pedram Layegh	Duty Manager

A profile on each member is provided -

CHAIR



Ruth Ferraro - PhD, GAICD, FGIA

Ruth Ferraro serves as the **Interim President** at Group Colleges Australia and the Interim Chair of the GCA Board of Directors. She is the Academic Lead for Strategy at the Governance Institute of Australia (GIA) and an Adjunct to GIA's Governance Academy.

Ruth earned her PhD from Middlesex University (UK) with research focusing on emerging professions. With over 25 years of executive experience in education, particularly within membership bodies for various professions, Ruth brings deep insight into the life-cycle and maturity of professions.

SECRETARY



Associate Professor Jotsana Roopram - Dip(Hospitality), DipEd., GradCertBusAdmin., GradCertHEd., M.Ed.

Jotsana holds multiple qualifications including diplomas in Hospitality, Education, and Business Administration, a Master's in Education, and is currently a PhD candidate at Federation University. She has extensive experience lecturing in Hospitality Management in South Africa, collaborating with industry, and mentoring junior staff. She has also served in academic administration as Head of Department, managing a diverse faculty.

Before joining UBSS in 2016, Jotsana was the College Operations Manager at Navitas in Sydney. Her expertise spans academic systems development, policy implementation, online examination management, and campus operations.

She has also completed postgraduate qualifications in Higher Education Academic Practice and Business Administration. Her research focuses on online learning and its impact on international students, with published articles on related topics. Her research interests include leadership in higher education,

student engagement in online learning, governance and quality assurance in higher education. Jotsana has published articles in the areas of online learning, remote proctoring and the student experience. She is the recipient of the best author award for the best academic article in the first UBSS Publication Series, July 2021. Jotsana has lectured the subject Team Leadership and Change Management in the Bachelor of Business program at UBSS.

She chairs the Threshold Standards Audit committee, Academic Integrity committee and is Secretary of the GCA Board of Directors and the Audit and Risk committee.

Jotsana is the **Deputy Dean – Academic** at UBSS and is the **Campus Director** of the Sydney campus. She is a professional member of the Institute of Managers and Leaders (IML) and a member of Australian Computer Society (ACS).



Jason Whitfield - *BTech(ICS) MACS*

Jason joined Group Colleges Australia, (GCA) in April 2003 and has helped to lead the enormous growth in technology use within GCA during that time.

Jason leads the GCA IT Department, implementing new technology for both teaching and administration, whilst ensuring that all technology in use at GCA is highly reliable, secure, and cost-effective.

In 2005, Jason managed the deployment of Interactive Whiteboard technology for all GCA classrooms, enabling GCA to deliver a superior student experience through a more engaging classroom environment. In the same year, Jason managed the implementation of the Moodle Learning Management System, which is now used by thousands of other education institutions.

In 2015, Jason managed the transition of the entire GCA IT infrastructure to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud platform, enabling the IT Infrastructure to become more scalable and flexible as the technology needs of GCA continued to grow.

In 2020, Jason managed the transition of GCA from face-to-face to fully online learning, by deploying ultra-modern classroom AV equipment and the Blackboard Collaborate online learning platform.

Jason has a Bachelor of Technology (Information and Communication Systems) from Macquarie University, and is a member of the Australian Computer Society (ACS).

Jason also has over 20 years' experience in Windows PC, Server and Network Administration, as well as extensive experience in Cyber Security, Cloud Computing, and Online Learning.

Jason is the **Chief Technology Officer** at Group Colleges Australia.



Associate Professor Seán O'Hanlon

Seán is the **Director (Staff Experience)** and **Campus Director** of the Melbourne CBD Campus.

Seán is passionate about International Education, having been an international student himself, studying in England, France and Spain. After graduating Seán relocated to Spain where he started his career as an *English Teacher* and then moved into student support joining *the Spanish American Institute*, the study abroad arm of the *University of Wisconsin*.

Seán relocated to Sydney at the end of 2004 and joined an international vocational college in June 2005 as Student Services Coordinator. In 2010 he joined *Western Sydney University - The College* as Student Advisor, being the first point of contact for all issues that were non-academic. During Seán's time at *WSU -The College*, he was granted Innovation Funding to launch the Cultural and Language Exchange Program, to bring local and international students together and was selected as staff representative for the Broadening Horizons program, joining students on an academic and cultural trip to China. During this time, he also provided focus on the staff experience – complimentary to the HR programs available.

From 2016, Seán was employed by a private tertiary provider as Manager, Student Experience, Community Safety and Staff Support and has focused on developing support programs for students including orientation, internship, study and life skills, graduation programs and for staff through the launch of the President's Excellence Award.



Aqeel Asad

Aqeel pursued his dream of achieving a business degree after a Diploma in Commerce and schooling in the UAE. He graduated from Flinders University and found himself in the corporate world as a Marketing and Event Management staffer for a Management Consultancy firm soon after completing his degree.

Starting with a student support role at Flinders University, Aqeel moved to join Optus and later Apple Inc. In Apple's world-renowned stores as a Client Services Executive, he quickly learned the essential nuances needed for the best customer service - within a business setting. He decided to further himself for future growth and diversity and decided to pursue an Executive MBA – with UBSS. He is working towards completion.

Aqeel joined the UBSS Adelaide Team in T3, 2023 as a key Learning Support Co-ordinator working closely with the Sydney and Melbourne staff. He is currently **Acting Campus Director** (Adelaide).



Pedram Layegh

Pedram Layegh completed a degree in Bachelor of Industrial Engineering (with a major in Manufacturing Systems), an Advance Diploma of Management, and a Bachelor degree in Music (with a major in classical performance). He began his engineering career in 2008 as an Expert in Industrial Affairs at the Deputy Office of the Ministry of Industries and Mines in Tehran, Iran. In the same year, he began his music teaching career in private music schools in Tehran.

In 2011, he migrated to Australia to pursue his musical career professionally. He graduated from the Australian Institute of Music (AIM) in 2015. From 2013 to 2018, he worked as a music teacher at Madakto Music School while completing his Bachelor Degree. He continued his teaching privately up to the present.

In 2016, Pedram co-founded the Eishan Ensemble and began performing classical guitar. He and his group released three world music albums, combining jazz, classical, and traditional Persian music. He performed as a classical guitarist with Eishan Ensemble in both local (music festivals and venues throughout Australia, such as Vivid in Sydney, WOMAD Festival in Adelaide, and etc.) and international music festivals (Yilan Festival in Taiwan, the 5th International Rondalla and String Festival in the Philippines, and jazz festivals in Spain and Portugal).

Pedram was employed as a Concierge at the UBSS Sydney campus from 2017 to 2023. He is currently a Duty Manager at the UBSS Sydney campus, managing a team of Duty Officers. He is a member of the Work, Health, and Safety Committee (WHS) at Group Colleges Australia.