

Susan Maxwell Eaton

Organisation: **Forestville Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Centre**

Profession: **Sports Physiotherapist**

Q Why are you seeking a position on the Board of Sports Medicine Australia?

I am seeking the opportunity to provide value, knowledge and leadership as a Board member of an organisation that I passionately believe in, and as a sports physiotherapist have enjoyed membership, for over 30 years. The chance to play an active leadership role in Australia's leading multi-disciplinary sports medicine body in improving outcomes such as safety, knowledge and health is an opportunity that I would embrace whole-heartedly. Furthermore, I believe that my sports physiotherapy, Board, managerial and personal experiences would allow me to make a valuable contribution. After building-up and managing a physiotherapy practice for 25 years, I made a career change in late 2015 and sold my practice. I am a recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) and am eager to use the skills gained on this course in a Board position with Sports Medicine Australia. Whilst I continue to work as a sports physiotherapist, my time is now freer, such that I can look toward the opportunity to contribute by sharing my time, expertise and energy by being an active Board Member of Sports Medicine Australia.

Q What skills, experience and personal attributes do you possess that make you an ideal candidate for appointment to the Board of Sports Medicine Australia?

I am a titled APA Sports Physiotherapist (1999), with a Master of Applied Science (Sports Physiotherapy) (1995), hold a Graduate Diploma in Exercise and Sports Science (1988) and a Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) (1981). In addition, I am recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, GAICD (2017). Over the years, I have had an abundance of experience in the sports medicine world, having worked as a physiotherapist at the Sydney Olympics (Tennis), Olympic test events (Sailing, Swimming and Tennis), International Netball, National Athletics and Little Athletics, City2Surf, Sydney 1st Grade Rugby League (St. George Illawarra Dragons) and many other events, including organising, and providing, the annual physio coverage of the "The Great Nosh Foot Race" for the past 25 years. In 2018, I will be working as a volunteer physiotherapist at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. In addition to my professional experience, since 2010 I have been closely involved in the mentoring and support of an Indigenous high school student. This family involvement with an indigenous young person, an elite athlete, particularly after he was involved in a near fatal accident, has provided incredible insight into the continued difference of opportunity experienced by some Australians and has allowed me to develop a keen sense of awareness of the importance of working closely with Indigenous Australians, many of whom are keen sports participants, to bridge this gap in healthcare and physical activity outcomes. Recently, I was honoured to be given the opportunity to make a difference, when I was invited to participate as an assistant committee member of the APA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee. As an experienced sports physiotherapist and proprietor of a physiotherapy practice (1990-2015), I bring a strong knowledge base of the sports medicine world, with a firm belief in providing equal health care outcomes and opportunities for all participants of physical activity. I am a skilled small business manager, accomplished in all aspects of the running and developing of a small business. In addition to my physiotherapy practice management, I have also held positions as a Director, Committee Member, Treasurer and Secretary in a range of organisations and businesses. I am well organised and experienced at prioritising tasks and setting up procedures, with excellent problem

solving and time management skills. I am a capable team player and valued committee member with a distinctive ability to think decisively, with vision and clarity. I would be grateful for the opportunity to use my skills, experience and personal attributes at Sports Medicine Australia, and I believe that the knowledge and qualities I have gained over many years of practice would make me an excellent addition to the Board.

Q Demonstrate how you meet the selection criteria for each of the following elements:(i) Experience and connection with the Sports Medicine industry(ii) Governance experience(iii) Business experience and acumen(iv) A desire to make a difference in the Sports Medicine industry

(i) For many years, I have been committed to the Sports Medicine industry, with a particular interest in the management of the young athlete. My academic, professional and teaching background gives support to this. My initial involvement in the sports medicine industry was as a physiotherapist at St. George Sports Injury Centre, Kogarah (1986-1990), working in a specialist multidisciplinary Sports Medicine Practice, and this involvement continued in my own practice at Forestville Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Centre (1990–current). My teaching experience includes lecturing on knee injuries and the management of injuries in the young athlete, including developing an independent learning package, for the APA, and the Association of Sports Physiotherapists (1998-2001), and the Masters of Sports Physiotherapy programme at the University of Sydney (1995, 1996). I have been strongly committed to undertaking continuing education in the field of Sports Medicine. My sports physiotherapy coverage (1996 to current) has always been on a voluntary basis, and varies from involvement with the everyday athlete to the Olympic athlete, and will continue in 2018 at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. (ii) Graduate Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) 2017 Dulmison Ski Club Ltd, Director March 2017- APA Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Committee, Assistant Committee Member February 2017 Dulmison Ski Club Lodge Committee Member 2001-2014 Link Road Kids Club Inc. After School Care, Treasurer 2001 – 2006 Association of Sports Physiotherapists Inc., Secretary 1997 – 2000 (iii) Proprietor/Manager 1990 - 2015 Forestville Physiotherapy & Sports Injury Centre 13 Starkey St, Forestville NSW 2087, www.forestvillephysio.com.au During this time I developed the business from a sole physiotherapist practice to a well-respected, leading physiotherapy practice with a staff of 6 employees. I am experienced in the management of all aspects running a small business including financial, human resources, marketing, governance, property management and engagement with local community groups. I instituted business changes including computerisation of the business, ongoing staff continuing education, website development and the implementation of government directives such as GST and compulsory staff superannuation. (iv) For over 30 years, I have been involved in the developing sports physiotherapy and sports medicine world. My desire to make a difference was initially demonstrated by my involvement with the Association of Sports Physiotherapists (ASP) in the 1990's as together we worked to create a post-graduate diploma and Masters programme in Sports Physiotherapy at Sydney University. In 1995, I was the first woman to graduate with a Masters in Sports Physiotherapy at Sydney University. Before that, in 1988, I presented at the 25th Anniversary Bicentennial Conference of ASMF, and, as previously mentioned, I have been involved in teaching and lecturing in the field of sports medicine (1996-2001), and at my own practice (1990-2015). More recently, I have continued my commitment to make a difference by mentoring physiotherapy & sports science students.

Q7 Describe how you will represent the interests of the broader Sports Medicine industry as a Director

I will represent the interests of the broader Sports Medicine industry by bringing a “new set of eyes” to the Board, with long experience of the Sports Medicine industry and a belief in the importance of the entire multi-disciplinary Sports Medicine community working together to achieve a safe culture of healthy participation for all Australians in physical activity and sport. I would bring to the Board my keen interest in improving health care and physical activity outcomes for Indigenous Australians, my interest in the young athlete and my concerns of the rising inactivity levels leading to an epidemic of obesity and lifestyle diseases. I would always strive to listen to the concerns of all stakeholders, and work with the highest of ethical standards and integrity, and be a diligent, valued and committed director, committed to sound governance principles.

Q Tell us about any other relevant skills, knowledge or experience to support your nomination.

Languages spoken English and French.

Q Is there any other information you wish to add to support your SMA Director Application?

Professional Body Memberships: Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) - Sports Physiotherapy and Musculoskeletal Special Groups AHPRA Sports Medicine Australia AICD Awards: “Pride of Workmanship Award”, Rotary Club of Frenchs Forest, 2014.

Other Interests: Travel in the Australian outback and overseas, sailing, skiing, golf, tennis, netball and reading.