Candidate Statement – Ebtesam Gauda

Overview of why I wish to join the EFA Board and experience

I am passionate about advancing digital rights, protecting civil liberties and promoting the responsible use of technology in Australia. With more than 20 years of executive and senior leadership experience across digital transformation, enterprise architecture, technology strategy, governance and risk management, I bring a deep understanding of how technology shapes individuals, organisations and society.

Throughout my career, I have held senior leadership and advisory roles across major Australian organisations, including ANZ, NAB, Coles, Australia Post and AEMO. I have led and advised on complex, large-scale digital transformation initiatives, enterprise technology strategies and governance frameworks, working at the intersection of business strategy, technology, security, risk and regulatory obligations. These experiences have given me firsthand insight into both the opportunities technology creates and the risks it presents when innovation is not accompanied by appropriate accountability, transparency and safeguards.

As a serving Board Director of Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA), I am committed to continuing my contribution to the organisation and supporting its important mission of defending and promoting human rights and civil liberties in the digital age. I seek reappointment to the Board because I believe EFA's role is increasingly important as Australia navigates rapid digitisation, the growing influence of artificial intelligence, data-driven decision-making, online surveillance and the evolving relationship between individuals, governments and technology platforms.

I bring to the Board a combination of strategic technology leadership, enterprise governance expertise, risk oversight and a strong appreciation of the broader social and ethical implications of technology. My experience includes establishing and overseeing governance frameworks that embed accountability, transparency, security, resilience and trust by design, as well as influencing senior executives and boards to balance innovation and commercial objectives with responsible technology practices.

I am particularly interested in ensuring that emerging technologies, including AI and automated decision-making, are developed and deployed in ways that respect fundamental rights, protect individual privacy, preserve freedom of expression and ensure equitable access and participation. I believe that digital rights must remain human rights, and that technology should empower people rather than undermine their autonomy, dignity or freedoms.

I also recognise the importance of EFA maintaining a strong, independent and credible voice in public policy discussions, advocating for proportionate and practical approaches to digital regulation that protect individuals without unnecessarily restricting innovation, freedom or access to technology.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue serving on the EFA Board, contributing my strategic, governance and technology expertise, supporting the organisation's sustainability and effectiveness, and helping strengthen its influence and impact in shaping a fairer, safer and more rights-respecting digital future for all Australians.

Statement of Intentions as a Board Member

As a member of the EFA Board, my goal is to strengthen the organisation's strategic capability and impact by:

- Bridging technical and policy perspectives to ensure advocacy is both principled and pragmatic.
- Championing ethical digital transformation, promoting awareness of privacy, AI governance, and responsible data use.
- Supporting partnerships and thought leadership that expand EFA's influence across sectors and communities.
- Contributing to organisational governance, ensuring alignment between EFA's strategic priorities, operations, and sustainability goals.

Above all, I intend to act as a committed advocate for digital rights fostering a safe, inclusive, and equitable digital environment for all Australians.

Declaration of any Conflict of Interest

I hereby declare that, to the best of my knowledge, I have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest that could affect my ability to serve impartially as a member of the EFA Board. I am currently a board member at:

1. Deafness Forum Australia (DFA)
2. Electronic Frontier Australia (EFA)

CANDIDATE STATEMENT — SHANNAN SUMMERS

Nomination for the Board of Electronic Frontiers Australia Inc · AGM 28 November 2026

A brief bio

I am a non-executive director and ICT operator with seventeen years in managed IT services. I am an Australian Institute of Company Directors member and Vice Chairman of the UGLQ General Board of Directors, a member-based organisation of 4,000 members, where I chair the Membership Sub-Committee and provide the board's cyber-security and technology risk advice. I have been a director of Antient Pty Ltd, and I am Managing Director of Binary Evolution Group, a managed IT services business of approximately $3M turnover, and Chief Information Officer of KNG Group overseeing two private hospitals. I am a qualified Justice of the Peace.

Why I wish to join the EFA Board, and my experience and expertise in promoting digital rights

I will be direct: I have not written submissions or ran campaigns. My contribution is the operational view of the same territory. Privacy, encryption, surveillance and artificial intelligence are settled daily inside ordinary businesses, not only in consultations. In whether a customer is talked out of invasive employee monitoring, whether a default configuration keeps data in Australia, whether encryption is treated as a control or an obstacle, and how an organisation behaves in the seventy-two hours after its data is exposed. I have made those calls since 2009 and carry their compliance consequences: notifiable data breach obligations, retention and access requests, control frameworks and cyber insurance. EFA's thirty years shaped what the law says. The gap I work in is the distance between policy intent and deployed reality, and that is where rights are actually lost.

My intentions as a member of the EFA Board

I would prefer the Policy Committee, and to be useful on EFA's own tech stack. Holding this organisation's systems and data handling to the standard members would expect of a digital rights body. I can also carry board paper discipline, risk register upkeep and financial oversight, the capacity a charity newly inside ACNC obligations tends to be short of. I will attend the monthly evening meeting and apologise in advance when I cannot, and defer to the Chair, Vice Chair and Communications Officer on media.

Perceived or actual conflicts of interest

I own and operate commercial ICT businesses and hold a salaried executive role. None of my commercial interests lie in surveillance, identity-verification or age-verification technology; my interest is in protecting systems, not weakening them. Where a matter touches a client or vendor relationship I will declare, record and recuse, consistent with Ethical Standard 3.

Affirmations

I confirm that:

- I have read and understood the Information for Prospective Board Members (Eligibility & Responsibilities, 4 October 2026).
- I have read the EFA Ethical Standards and agree to abide by them if elected.
- I hold an ASIC Director Identification Number.
- I have appraised myself of my ACNC duties and will sign the declaration that I am not a disqualified person.
- I have already applied to be a financial member of EFA.

Aman Grewal

Candidate Statement: Electronic Frontiers Australia Board, 2026 AGM

BIO

I am a Brisbane based cyber security and IT governance leader with more than 16 years of experience across engineering & construction, manages security services, regulated wagering and federal government.

Currently, I am working as an IT Solutions Manager at Global Group, where I have had the opportunity to advise the group on cyber security and IT governance. In this role, I am overseeing the technology integration of recently acquired businesses. Also, taking ownership of multi-year technology strategy so the organisation can move the cyber posture from reactive to proactive.

In my role of Technical Services and Security Manager at Emantra, I led the business through successful ISO 27001 and IRAP assessments. These assessments ensured that business was equipped with the controls in place to manage sensitive data. At CyberCX I was leading a cloud operations team which served eight enterprise clients with their risk and vulnerability assessments. I also had similar responsibilities in my role at Datacom where I oversaw management of federal government contracts. Before this I spent 7 years at Tatts Group and Tabcorp, leading support of core platforms in a heavily regulated environment.

Earlier, I co-founded and ran a regional solar solutions business, which gave me first-hand accountability for strategy, finances and risk in a small organisation where every dollar and every hour counts.

I am always looking at ways to improve and learn from other professionals in the industry, hence I have memberships with Australian Institute of Company Directors (MAICD) and the Australian Information Security Association (AISA). I also hold CISSP certification and a bachelor's degree in information technology.

Why I wish to join EFA?

My career has been spent inside the systems that hold Australians' personal information. That work has shown me the importance of privacy and security. They are protected by decisions made long before a breach, a new law or a headline. Too often those decisions are made without the people affected having a voice, or without a clear technical understanding of what a proposal can actually impact.

EFA has given Australians that voice for more than 30 years. Its current work on Privacy Act reform, social media age restrictions, smart glasses, AI and freedom of information comes at a time when legislation is moving faster than public understanding. I want to help EFA make its case with technical clarity and credibility, and to help the organisation itself stay well governed as it grows as a registered charity.

My experience in promoting digital rights

My contribution to digital rights so far has been as a practitioner rather than a public advocate.

- Protecting personal information: designing and governing the identity, access, monitoring and continuity controls that keep customer and employee data private and secure.
- Holding organisations to standards: leading ISO 27001 and IRAP assessments, which require evidence, not assurances, that information is handled responsibly.
- Explaining risk to decision makers: translating complex technical issues into clear choices for boards and executives, the same skill needed to explain the impact of a bill or code to policymakers and the public.
- Engaging the security community: through AISA, I am connected with practitioners who see the real-world effects of policies on encryption, surveillance and data security.

I am keen to build my skills in advocacy and policy, and I see EFA as the right place to do it.

My Intention as EFA Borad Member

If elected, I would:

- Show up and contribute: attend every board meeting, prepare properly, check minutes, and commit two to three hours a week to EFA's work.
- Join the Technical Team: provide security and technology expertise and give the Policy Team technical input for submissions on privacy, encryption, surveillance and AI.
- Strengthen EFA's own governance: help develop and review board policies, including how EFA manages its own cyber security, data and privacy risks, consistent with its obligations as an ACNC-registered charity.
- Support EFA's voice and reach: write content for EFA's website and socials on security topics and help grow membership and stakeholder relationships through my professional networks.
- Uphold the standards: complete my Director Identification Number and ACNC Responsible Person registration before the AGM and comply with the EFA Ethical Standards.

Conflicts of Interest

I am not aware of any actual conflict of interest. In the interest of transparency, I declare the following potential or perceived interests:

- Employment: I am employed by Global Group Australia as IT Solutions Manager. In that role I procure and manage technology from major vendors. I have no personal financial interest in those vendors
- Security clearance: I hold an NV1 national security clearance from previous federal government work. I will not disclose classified or official information, and I will declare and step back from any EFA matter where my clearance obligations could conflict with my duties to EFA.
- Professional memberships: I am a member of AICD and AISA. If EFA takes a position involving either organisation, I will declare my membership.

I will declare, record and manage any new interest as it arises, in line with the EFA Ethical Standards. I am not a disqualified person under the ACNC or the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), and I am happy to sign the required declaration.

Candidate Statement – Sunyal Maroo

1. Brief Bio
Sunyal Maroo is a Perth-based governance, risk and compliance professional with a Bachelor of Commerce (Business Information Systems / Technology) from Curtin University and the ISACA CRISC certification. His background spans IT asset management and IT GRC analyst roles at Curtin University's Digital Technology Solutions, where he worked alongside cyber security and business continuity teams, managed issues, facilitated audits and helped run the university's risk management program.

Sunyal was born with Ataxic Cerebral Palsy and lives with chronic pain. He was involved in disability advocacy at Curtin and brings a lived-experience understanding of how technology, data and automated systems affect people who rely on them often the first harmed and the last consulted when systems are designed without them in mind.

He is an ISACA member, a volunteer with PauseAI Australia and holds strong interests in AI governance, cyber risk, competition economics and digital rights. Outside work, he produces and DJs electronic music, which keeps him connected to creative communities with their own stakes in platform power, copyright and algorithmic gatekeeping.

2. Why I Wish to Join the EFA Board
Digital rights are inseparable from questions of power: who collects our data, who builds and controls AI systems, and who is accountable when they fail. EFA has spent over 30 years holding governments and large institutions to account on these issues. I want to help carry that work into the AI era, bringing both professional rigour and lived experience to the table.

My governance background translates complex technical risk into plain language for decision-makers skills that fit board oversight, policy scrutiny and organisational risk management. My advocacy work has given me experience in volunteer organising and public engagement on fast-moving policy issues. My experience as an NDIS participant and disability advocate gives me a practical view of how automated, data-driven systems can exclude or harm when not designed with affected communities.

3. Intentions as a Board Member
If elected, I intend to:
Contribute 2–3 hours weekly, attend monthly evening board meetings, and take on a practical function ideally on the Policy Committee or in a governance and risk capacity
Strengthen EFA's governance, risk management and ACNC compliance
Support EFA's policy work on AI regulation, privacy reform, surveillance, encryption and digital inclusion, with particular attention to accessibility and the rights of people with disability
Help recruit and mentor diverse volunteers, especially in Western Australia
Act with integrity, put EFA's mission first, and abide by the EFA Ethical Standards

4. Conflicts of Interest
I have no actual conflicts of interest that I am aware of. For transparency, I disclose:

I volunteer with PauseAI Australia, an AI safety advocacy group with overlapping but not identical goals to EFA. I will declare this where relevant and recuse myself where appropriate
I am an ISACA member and hold a CRISC certification. I am currently seeking work in AI governance, risk and compliance. Should I take a role with an organisation that is the subject of EFA advocacy, or has a commercial interest in EFA's policy positions, I will disclose it promptly. I am a participant in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

Candidate Statement — Michael Downe

1. Biography

Michael is a PhD-qualified business academic with over 10 years' experience in the Australian higher education sector. Prior to entering academia, Michael worked in a variety of roles at JB Hi-Fi and as an accountant in public practice.

Based primarily at Swinburne University of Technology, he has lectured across a range of accounting units, including financial information systems, management accounting, auditing and accounting theory. Alongside his teaching, Michael has coordinated units for Swinburne's international partners and worked with online providers to develop learning content.

His doctoral thesis, completed in 2024, examined Australia's two-strikes rule as a mechanism for shareholder dissent and its impact on financial reporting quality. Michael's research interests include earnings management, shareholder activism, executive pay and business ethics. He has also contributed to research projects with CPA Australia and the Australian Accounting Standards Board, including extensive analysis of not-for-profit annual reports.

More recently, Michael has sought to apply his expertise to the governance of organisations working in the public interest. He joined EFA's Board in August 2026 and assumed the role of Treasurer the following month.

2. Motivation to join the EFA Board

EFA's mission to ensure that technology makes our lives better, not worse, strongly resonates with me. Like many Australians, I am worried about the ways in which organisations collect, use and manage personal information. Time and again, organisations have suffered major data breaches without facing sufficient penalties. The rapid integration of AI into our lives without adequate safeguards and its potential to undermine human creativity are also concerns of mine.

Since joining the Board, I have come to better appreciate the important role that advocacy groups such as EFA play in holding governments and corporate actors to account. Recognising the importance of this work in serving the public interest, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my skills and judgement to the Board's policy efforts.

With my expertise in financial reporting and having already served as Treasurer over the past few months, I am also well placed to continue in the role. During my brief tenure, I have made improvements to EFA's reporting processes—i.e., streamlined monthly updates, a more comprehensive annual report—and see further opportunities to ensure responsible stewardship of its financial resources.

3. Intentions as an EFA Board Member

If elected, I would contribute constructively to Board decision-making and support EFA's advocacy efforts. I intend to stand for the Treasurer role and am committed to ensuring that EFA maintains strong financial oversight and is transparent with its members.

I also have some ideas that could help EFA strengthen its membership, volunteer base and public profile.

One area in which I see potential is engagement with university students. Drawing on my familiarity with the sector, I believe there is scope to recruit members and volunteers through student associations, alumni groups and job boards. A presence at university open days, where permitted, could also help raise EFA's profile. Given that today's school-leavers are digital natives, their perspectives could add value to EFA's work.

I also see opportunities for EFA to engage more directly with parents and families. As the father of a young child, I often hear concerns from other parents about children's privacy and safety in an increasingly online world. EFA could reach this audience through public education materials, such as videos and digital reading material. These resources could feature a fun mascot based on EFA's logo to capture children's attention and make EFA more approachable to families. Many parents are simply not aware that EFA exists or of the important role it plays in protecting digital rights.

Beyond these initiatives, I intend to bring a thoughtful and collaborative approach to Board deliberations, listening carefully to different perspectives. I value integrity, inclusivity and respectful debate, qualities that I believe would support the Board's effective operation.

4. Conflict of Interest Statement

To the best of my knowledge, I have no actual or perceived conflicts of interest that would affect my ability to serve as a Board member of EFA.

I affirm the following:

- I have read and understand the Information for Prospective Board Members document.
- I have read and agree to abide by EFA's Ethical Standards should I be elected to the Board.
- I hold a valid Director Identification Number and am familiar with ACNC obligations.

Michael Downe

16/10/2026

RAHUL NARAN

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/rahulnaran

Bio

I am a governance-focused Risk & Compliance professional with over eight years' experience across financial services, superannuation, insurance, and community-aligned organisations. My work centres on strengthening governance frameworks, uplifting organisational risk maturity, designing practical controls, and supporting executive and board-level oversight. I have contributed to policy development, risk management frameworks, Delegations of Authority, incident governance processes, and organisational reporting that enables sound decision-making.

Across roles at RACQ, Brighter Super, PwC Australia, PwC New Zealand, and Lotto New Zealand, I have delivered governance reviews, internal audit engagements, controls assurance programs, and advisory work that improves organisational transparency, accountability, and resilience. I am known for pragmatic, proportionate governance advice that balances good practice with the realities of resource-constrained or volunteer-run environments.

I am passionate about digital rights, privacy, and the responsible use of technology. I believe strongly in the importance of civil society organisations that advocate for transparency, accountability, and human rights in a digital context. My professional background in risk, governance, and compliance aligns naturally with EFA's mission and the responsibilities of a board member.

I am in the process of becoming a financial member of EFA and intend to complete this requirement immediately as part of my nomination.

Why I wish to join the EFA Board & Relevant Experience

I am motivated by EFA's mission to ensure technology enhances society rather than undermines it. Issues such as privacy, surveillance, algorithmic fairness, digital governance, and responsible data use are increasingly central to public life. I want to contribute my governance and risk expertise to strengthen EFA's organisational foundations, support policy development, and help the organisation continue to be a credible, evidence-based voice in digital rights advocacy.

My experience in governance frameworks, policy development, risk oversight, and organisational maturity uplift is directly relevant to EFA's board responsibilities. I can contribute structured thinking, clear reporting, and practical governance support to assist EFA's decision-making and long-term sustainability.

Statement of Intentions as a Board Member

If appointed, I intend to:

- Contribute actively to policy formulation, governance oversight, and organisational decision-making.
- Support the development and review of board policies, procedures, and governance documentation.
- Strengthen risk awareness and governance maturity within EFA's operations.
- Assist with stakeholder engagement, advocacy, and communications where appropriate.
- Promote EFA's mission and values through evidence-based, ethical, and transparent conduct.
- Participate consistently in board meetings and contribute to project work aligned with my skills.

Conflicts of Interest

I do not have any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that would affect my ability to serve on the EFA Board. If any potential conflicts arise in future, I will declare and manage them in accordance with EFA's Ethical Standards and governance policies.

Candidate Statement – Sarah Coligan

Brief bio

Sarah Coligan GAICD is an experienced non-executive director, governance professional and senior strategist communications leader and reputation coach with a career spanning technology, telecommunications, corporate affairs, stakeholder engagement and the not-for-profit sector.

Sarah is Founder and Managing Director of Profiler PR, advising boards, executives and organisations on strategic communications, issues and crisis management, stakeholder engagement and reputation.

Sarah's executive experience includes senior roles with Telstra, Ericsson and NBN Co, leading Red Havas PR's Business and Tech Consumer division across Melbourne and Sydney, and leading the Samsung Australia account onsite AV launch team at Ogilvy PR. This work has involved translating complex technology and policy issues for diverse audiences, advising technology and infrastructure organisations, managing reputational risk and building constructive relationships with media, government, business and community stakeholders.

Sarah brings practical governance experience across sporting, education, community and purpose-led organisations. Current roles include Independent Commissioner of Basketball SA and Non-Executive Director of St Dominic's Priory College, alongside broader governance and advisory experience with organisations including Baseball SA, Harness Racing SA, EmployCare, Yellow Door Care, Villagehood Australia, Treasure Boxes, Siblings Australia and Mercedes College.
Sarah is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has contributed to strategy, policy, risk and welfare oversight, organisational governance, sponsorship, government relations and stakeholder engagement.

Why I wish to join the EFA Board and my experience in promoting digital rights

EFA's work to protect privacy, defend digital rights and promote accountable approaches to artificial intelligence strongly resonates with me. Technology increasingly shapes how Australians communicate, access information and participate in public life. I believe strong, independent advocacy is essential to ensure innovation serves people without eroding privacy, autonomy, freedom of expression or public trust.

My contribution to digital rights has principally been through technology communications, stakeholder engagement and making complex digital issues accessible to the public. Through roles with Telstra, Ericsson, NBN Co, Red Havas PR working on Phillips, Dropbox, Neoen, and Fedex and Ogilvy PR leading an onsite team for Samsung AV launch, I have worked at the intersection of technology, consumers, reputation and public policy. I have helped organisations communicate complex technical issues clearly and navigate the expectations of consumers, media, government and communities.

I have also supported community-facing conversations about digital wellbeing. At Adelaide Fringe 2026, I led the local PR team onsite for Wait Mate's "Scroll Less, Fringe More" initiative, encouraging families and young people to reconnect through shared experiences. The campaign reinforced for me the connections between persuasive technology, privacy, data use, digital wellbeing and responsible AI, as well as the importance of translating these issues into practical and accessible public messages.

My intentions as a Member of the EFA Board

If elected, I would be an active, collaborative and constructive Board member, bringing sound governance discipline alongside practical communications, technology and stakeholder expertise. I would support EFA's strategic and governance responsibilities while helping translate technical and policy developments into compelling public narratives that broaden awareness and engagement without oversimplifying complex issues.

I would particularly seek to contribute to EFA's communications, policy advocacy, media and stakeholder engagement, membership development, fundraising, reputation and issues-management priorities. I would bring an independent perspective, ask constructive questions, identify emerging risks and opportunities, and work with fellow Board members to strengthen EFA's impact, public trust and long-term sustainability. I am committed to upholding EFA's Ethical Standards and meeting the responsibilities expected of an ACNC Responsible Person.

Perceived or actual conflicts of interest

I am not currently aware of any actual conflict of interest that would prevent me from serving effectively on the EFA Board. I do hold a portfolio of governance, advisory and commercial communications roles, including as Managing Director of Profiler PR, and recognise that a perceived or actual conflict could arise from time to time through clients, other board appointments or stakeholder relationships. Should any such conflict arise, I would disclose it promptly and transparently and manage it in accordance with EFA's governance requirements, including abstaining from relevant discussions or decisions where appropriate.

STEPHEN G. MORTON

CANDIDATE STATEMENT | EFA BOARD NOMINATION

Electronic Frontiers Australia Inc.

Professional Biography

I am a Sydney-based technology and business professional with more than 30 years of experience across telecommunications, internet services, network infrastructure, cybersecurity, software development and business management.

Throughout my career, I have held senior technical, commercial and management positions with organisations including Telstra, Optus, Macquarie Telecom and Syntric. I also founded and managed a telecommunications business providing connectivity and communications services to thousands of customer endpoints, which I subsequently sold.

My experience encompasses secure communications, network architecture, operational technology, software development, automation, customer data management and technology risk. My work supporting Defence telecommunications environments has also strengthened my understanding of information security, access controls, confidentiality and the importance of responsible technology management.

I currently work as a Senior Pre-Sales Solutions Architect, advising organisations on technology infrastructure, security, connectivity and operational resilience.

In addition to my professional experience, I have participated in community and volunteer organisations, including Rotary.

I recently completed Governance training through the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) and intend to continue my professional development through Risk and Finance for Company Directors.

Why I Wish to Join the EFA Board

Having spent much of my professional life working with the technologies that underpin modern communications, I have developed a strong appreciation of both their benefits and their potential to undermine individual privacy and freedoms.

I believe technology should empower individuals, encourage innovation and improve society, without unnecessarily compromising privacy, freedom of expression or personal autonomy.

EFA's advocacy for digital rights, strong encryption, privacy and responsible technology policy strongly resonates with me.

While I have not previously worked in a formal digital-rights advocacy role, my practical experience has given me insight into the technical and operational implications of decisions concerning data collection, surveillance, security and access to digital services.

I am particularly interested in contributing to discussions around privacy, encryption, artificial intelligence, online security and the balance between legitimate security requirements and individual rights.

My Intentions as an EFA Board Member

If elected, I would seek to become an active and constructive contributor to EFA's governance, policy discussions and organisational activities.

I would bring practical technical knowledge, commercial experience and a collaborative approach to board deliberations. I would be particularly interested in supporting technical and policy initiatives, assisting with the assessment of emerging technologies and helping communicate complex technical issues to broader audiences.

I would also welcome opportunities to contribute my software development and automation skills where these could help EFA operate efficiently and make the best use of its volunteer resources.

As this would be my first formal board appointment, I recognise the importance of learning from experienced directors while contributing my own skills and perspectives. I am committed to sound governance, evidence-based decision-making, transparency, confidentiality and acting in EFA's best interests.

My motivation is to make a meaningful contribution to an organisation whose work I consider increasingly important to Australia's digital future.

Declaration of Actual or Perceived Conflicts of Interest

I am currently employed by Syntric, a technology and operational technology solutions provider, and have business interests in privately held technology and drone services ventures.

These activities are not, to my knowledge, directly in conflict with EFA's objectives. However, I recognise that potential or perceived conflicts could arise in matters relating to technology suppliers, government policy, communications infrastructure, surveillance or commercial interests.

I would disclose my relevant employment, business interests and any emerging conflicts to the Board, comply with EFA's Ethical Standards and conflict-of-interest procedures, and refrain from participating in decisions where appropriate.

I recognise that my obligations as a Board Member would be to act independently, ethically and in the best interests of EFA.

Jodie Hunter
Casual Board member, Electronic Frontiers Australia

As a current casual board member of Electronic Frontiers Australia for the past nine months, I wish to apply to become a full board member.

Biography

I am a semi-retired administrative and communications professional with over 30 years of experience managing high-level correspondence, publicity, and community engagement across the higher education, corporate, and charitable sectors. Notably, before my retirement, I spent close to a decade serving as a Correspondence Officer for Professor Glyn Davis AC, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, managing complex stakeholder communications at the highest institutional level.

My foundational background is in media and digital content creation. I have an Associate Diploma in Broadcast Journalism from the WA Academy of Performing Arts and have many years' experience as a community radio broadcaster, freelance writer and photographer. These experiences have allowed me to progress successful publicity and communications campaigns for a diverse range of cultural and non-profit organisations, including the Australia-Japan Society, Carers WA, and independent choral societies.

Today, I leverage my expertise in digital spaces as an online community builder and digital strategist. I manage an organic social media ecosystem of over 4,000 followers for my creative enterprise, *WhoozQueen Wire Jewellery*, and serve as the lead administrator for *Polymer Clay Australia*, a digital community where I have strategically scaled membership from 3,000 to over 13,000 members. As an early adopter of online community spheres since the mid-1990s, I possess a nuanced, long-term understanding of digital subcultures, decentralised networks, and the vital role of grassroots online organizing.

Interest in the work of the EFA

Having followed the EFA's work for many years, I am deeply committed to the protection of digital rights, online privacy, and data sovereignty. In an era defined by mass disinformation, hyper-concentration of media ownership, and rapidly shifting regulatory frameworks, the EFA's mandate is more critical than ever.

As an active participant and leader within the creative arts and craft ecosystems for over a decade, I have a firsthand understanding of the unique digital vulnerabilities facing independent creators. Modern creative folk rely upon corporate social media and centralized e-commerce marketplaces like Etsy to promote their craft and financially thrive. Today, these communities face unprecedented threats from generative AI fraud, algorithmic copyright infringement, and unfairly applied platform policies. I am passionate about ensuring the EFA advocates for the digital rights and economic safety of everyday creators.

My interest is further informed by close familiarity with software development realities. Through my professional and personal networks, I closely follow systemic issues surrounding information security, data breaches, corporate surveillance, and the social ramifications of poorly implemented tech policy. I am dedicated to ensuring that the internet remains a free, fair, and safe ecosystem for creators, gamers, and everyday citizens alike.

A statement of my intentions as a Member of the Board of the EFA

Over the past nine months serving as a casual board member, I have focused on translating the EFA's strategic goals into immediate, measurable operational results. My contributions across the board portfolio include:

- **Governance & Policy Support:** Assisted the Chair through final edit stages of key EFA government and policy submissions, ensuring advocacy documentation met governance standards.
- **Internal Communications**: Enthusiastic participant on the Slack channels, contributing articles and comments daily for reading, discussion and potential campaign activity.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Created and launched 13 new digital merchandise designs so far on the EFA's Redbubble store, fixing markup prices and successfully generating the organisation's first Redbubble income since 2024.
- **Digital Communications & Member Engagement:** Authored an article on AI fraud affecting online sellers for the EFA newsletter and assisted with collating information and editing of the monthly newsletter.
- **Social Media:** Volunteered to manage the EFA Mastodon account, ensuring our digital footprint extends outwards to reach members and potential members there.

If formalised as a full Board Member, my intention is to continue building on this momentum. I will offer my extensive expertise in volunteer administration, high-level correspondence, creative merchandise ideas and digital community management to support the EFA's sound governance, financial viability, and public-facing advocacy.

I can confirm that I have:

* Read and understood the Information for Prospective Board Members document
* Read and agree to abide by the EFA Ethical Standards, should I be elected to the Board
* Have an ASIC Director identification number
* Appraised myself of my duties to ACNC
* I am a member of EFA

John Daniel Candidate Statement

25 October 2026

Electronic Frontiers Australia Board

Brief biography

I am a technology, media and software executive with more than 25 years' experience at Pongrass Australia, progressing from Network and Systems Engineer to General Manager and now Director of Operations. I hold an MBA from Deakin University and am a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

My experience includes advising directors on strategy, risk and financial performance, leading digital transformation and cloud initiatives, and advising media organisations on workflow improvements. I also represent Pongrass at trade and networking events.

I led a business turnaround that restored profitability, strengthened financial sustainability and supported growth. As a former Bayside Council advisory body member, I contributed to community consultation on park amenities and use and represented community interests to the board.

Why I wish to join EFA

I want to support technology that respects privacy, protects freedom of expression and serves the public interest. EFA's work defending digital rights, including privacy and encryption, aligns with those values.

My experience is primarily in practical technology delivery and advice rather than formal digital rights campaigning. Working with media organisations has given me insight into how technology affects publishing, access to information and the use of original content. More recently, this has included questions surrounding AI, content scraping and copyright. I would contribute that practical perspective while considering different viewpoints and supporting evidence-based policy.

My intentions as a board member

I would contribute to EFA's governance, financial sustainability and practical operations, helping assess technology choices, improve processes and support stakeholder engagement and fundraising.

I understand that EFA has an active volunteer board and would contribute to projects and administrative work alongside governance responsibilities. I can commit to the expected 2–3 hours per week and monthly evening meetings, with flexibility to contribute additional time to projects and priorities as my availability allows. I would approach discussions with an open mind and learn from colleagues with deeper experience in public policy and digital rights advocacy.

Interests and potential conflicts

Pongrass provides technology and services to media organisations and sponsors industry events held by bodies including Local LINA and Country Press Australia and its state branches. These relationships could create actual or perceived conflicts in matters affecting Pongrass, its clients or these organisations, particularly AI, copyright and publishing technology.

I would promptly declare and record relevant interests and withdraw from affected discussions and decisions in accordance with EFA's procedures. I would act in EFA's best interests and maintain confidentiality.

Eligibility and commitment

I have reviewed EFA's Eligibility & Responsibilities document and Ethical Standards. I understand the responsibilities and time commitment of the role and agree to abide by EFA's Ethical Standards, including the requirements concerning confidentiality and the disclosure and management of conflicts of interest.

I confirm that I am not disqualified from managing a corporation or from serving as a Responsible Person under the ACNC requirements.

I hold an Australian Director ID, issued on 21 July 2022, and can provide it privately to EFA for verification.

JOHN **SHABA**

Candidate Statement

To: Members and Board of Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA)

16th Oct 2026

Re: Nomination for the EFA Board, 2026 Annual General Meeting

1. Bio

I'm the first Chief Technology Officer of Paramount Liquor, Australia's largest independently owned liquor wholesaler. I lead technology, data and AI, drawing on earlier leadership roles at KPMG Australia, Coles and JB Hi-Fi. During seven years at KPMG, I led digital workplace, AI and automation, helping take AI from early pilots to firm-wide use as a member of the global Copilot steering committee.

I grew up in Broadmeadows in a migrant family. I've served as Senior President of Meadow Park Soccer Club and volunteered my digital marketing skills for Beyond Blue. I also founded and grew a digital marketing firm.

2. Why I wish to join the EFA Board, and my experience promoting digital rights

My interest in EFA comes from seeing how decisions about technology affect people's privacy. I've spent much of my career introducing new systems and establishing the safeguards around them. I want to use that experience to support EFA's work on privacy, accountable AI and digital identity.

At KPMG, I required staff-identifiable data to be anonymised before an analytics platform went live. At Paramount, I wrote the AI governance framework. I've also set requirements for access to personal information and limits on AI meeting recording. For AI agents, I've required a named human owner, limits on independent action, human review and an audit trail.

That experience has shown me where safeguards can fall short and what stronger protections need to achieve. I would bring a practical understanding of these systems to EFA's policy work.

3. Statement of intentions as a Member of the Board

I would commit to the Board's governance responsibilities and contribute actively to its work between meetings. My experience in strategic planning, portfolio governance and budget management would help me support EFA's priorities and long term sustainability. I would focus on:

Policy: contributing practical evidence to submissions on privacy, AI and digital identity, and helping explain technical issues clearly to members and policymakers.

Tech stack: helping EFA make sound decisions about its technology, balancing privacy and security with affordability and the needs of a member-led organisation.

Reach: drawing on my digital marketing experience to grow membership and support campaigns that bring EFA's work to a wider audience.
I would also value learning from EFA's experienced campaigners.

4. Statement of conflicts of interest

I am not aware of any actual or perceived conflicts of interest relating to my nomination.

Thank you for your consideration.

John Shaba