



WASH House Inc. appoints sector leader for its next phase of growth

WASH House Board has today announced the appointment of Dr Trishima (Trish) Mitra-Kahn as Executive Officer commencing 3rd May 2021. WASH House is a community-based frontline service for women, based in Mount Druitt. Over the past five years alone, WASH House has delivered over 3250 specialist counselling sessions, 23,000 group support sessions and supported over 800 survivors of domestic violence via intensive case management to remain safely in their home or to relocate to safer accommodation in the Blacktown Local Government area.

WASH House Chairperson Jo Fuller said. “Dr Mitra-Kahn is an exceptional appointment and a well-respected sector specialist. Next year, WASH House is entering its 40th year with a clear vision for the future. Early intervention and primary prevention are the keys to reducing the impacts of violence, inequality, social disadvantage and isolation on the lives of women in Western Sydney”.

“Throughout her career, Trish has championed global, federal and state-based initiatives to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and improve community wellbeing. She is dedicated to meeting the needs of those most marginalised in our communities and has a proven commitment to intersectional practice. With her values alignment to WASH House, collaborative approach, commercial acumen and policy nous, Trish is well placed to steer us into our fifth decade,” Ms Fuller added.

The Board also thanked Acting Executive Officer Catherine White for her exemplary leadership. Ms Fuller said “Catherine has guided WASH House through a challenging period with integrity and deep commitment. She was instrumental in ensuring that we remained open throughout the pandemic and continued to deliver and innovate our services. Catherine leaves our organisation in a strong position with many achievements, including new partnerships and increased direct service capacity to meet growing demand. We wish her the absolute best for the future.”

Dr Mitra-Kahn comes to WASH House from leadership roles across Australia including: Acting and Deputy CEO at Domestic Violence NSW; Transitional CEO at the Luke Batty Foundation; Director, Research Program at Australia’s National Research Organisation for Women’s Safety Ltd; Manager, Domestic Violence Strategy at the NSW Department of Justice; and Manager at the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance. Alongside these roles, she has managed a consultancy practice advising NGOs on business strategy and change management. She sits and has sat on several Government committees and NGO Boards, and has a PhD in sociology.

Incoming WASH Executive Officer Dr Mitra-Kahn said “It is a privilege to take up this role on Darug Country alongside such a skilled and dedicated Board and staff team. As Executive Officer I am committed to amplifying the expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in our community, who for generations have led the way on ensuring positive outcomes for a brighter Western Sydney. Today, women from over 143 countries call Western Sydney their home. I look forward to being guided by their tenacity and wisdom. Though they are diverse and face unique and systemic challenges, the women of Western Sydney are brave and resilient. They hold the solutions for their communities to thrive and flourish”.

The Board looks forward to an exciting time of growth and diversification as WASH House continues to strengthen its unique and important frontline service footprint for Western Sydney women and their communities.

Media Requests: Hannah Craft, Essential Media Communications. M: 0423 377 965