

## SASEC Candidate Profiles Board Nominees 2021

Listed in Alphabetical Order by surname

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### **Prof. Eddie Blass**

I have been an active participant in SASEC since its concept, attending and contributing to hosting events prior to incorporation. Those familiar with me will know my passion for social enterprise over charity, and the systemic change required to provide social enterprise with the equal footing that not for profits are privileged in the economy. I am the Founder and CEO of the Inventorium, a social enterprise providing an alternative online high school option for kids who for whatever reason have disengaged from traditional school, and am also currently employed as PVCA at Torrens University Australia as the Inventorium is now self-sustaining and I needed a new challenge.

I would bring two elements to the board. Firstly my knowledge, experience and standing in education sector from which I would seek to set up an education/higher education subcommittee to represent SASEC in the international academic arena and the education sector more broadly (scope dependent on the Board's requirements and members needs); and secondly my passion for challenging the system, demonstrated by my work with Inventorium, and also the Hen House Co-operative and Incubator Coop, both of which promote alternative means of ownership, investment and funding in order to address systemic economic inequities.

From a personal viewpoint, being a Board member of SASEC interests me also for the international connections it would afford me and the opportunity to broaden conversations beyond State boundaries, as well as deepening them within the State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Eddie

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## **Theresa Brown**

Theresa Brown has worked in the community sector as a Community Development Manager and Service Development Manager for over 25 years in both local government and not for profit organisations.

She is the founder of 'Play it On' a social enterprise that provides funding to assist children from families that are financially challenged, to play their chosen sport through the collection and sale of new and used sporting equipment.

Theresa has an Honours Degree in Social Enquiry and an MBA specializing in Entrepreneurship. Theresa is a founding member and Treasurer of the South Australian Social Enterprise Council.

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## **Carmen Garcia**

Carmen is CEO and Founder of national award-winning diversity and inclusion certified social enterprise, Community Corporate. Operating in the niche space of corporate social responsibility, Community Corporate specialises in recruitment with social conscience, pre-employment training and corporate volunteering. In 2021, Community Corporate won National Social Enterprise of the Year at the Australian Small Business Champions Awards.

Carmen is a well-regarded social entrepreneur driven to make a profound economic and social impact through work. Based in Adelaide, the social enterprise operates nationally with key corporate clients including the Woolworths Group, IKEA and On The Run to name a few, which help hundreds of refugees access employment.

Recognised in 2018 by InDaily as one of the inaugural 40 Under 40 Business Leaders and Entrepreneurs in SA, she won an individual award for State Contribution – now co-convening the Alumni and sponsoring the Social Impact Award to drive social innovation in SA. In 2020, she received an Australia Day Commendation Award for inspiring SA Women, was also jointly awarded the Governor's Multicultural Award for Individual Outstanding Achievement and her business was listed as one of SA's Fast Mover companies in 2020.

Carmen has extensive government and community board experience, including the previous chair of the corporate engagement sub-committee of the Australian Government's Settlement Advisory Council and is the current National President of the Filipino Communities Council of Australia. She currently sits on the NSW based social enterprise, The Bread and Butter Project as a Director and has been a long-term advocate for social enterprise and social entrepreneurship in SA and nationally.

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## **Lisa Hill**

I have advocated for social justice and have had a keen curiosity of entrepreneurship. Working in the non-profit sector I was able to live my values, however, I felt I could make greater impact as an entrepreneur. Thus, I embarked on a journey of enquiry and learning for several years.

In 2010 I became aware of the Fair Trade movement, thus, I expanded an existing business and began supporting Fair Trade Producers.

In 2015 I changed strategy and focused solely on creating a Social Enterprise incorporating the newly formed UN Sustainable Development Goals. The business grew and we successfully contracted and partnered with over 20 producer groups in 12 countries, impacting positively on hundreds of communities and individuals.

In 2018, I noticed many of our partners needed support in business start up and development. I collaborated and negotiated with several social entrepreneurs, nationally and globally, and created a Social Good Collective in Fitzroy, Melbourne where they could showcase their products and receive business support and coaching. Now in 2021 I am pivoting and strategising to create the next impactful business.

I would like to bring my experiences and skills to SASEC and be an integral part of its growth. I will bring business acumen, strategy, leadership and project management skills to the board, along with creative, innovative and forward thinking to social enterprise in South Australia. I have a great enthusiasm to see individuals, and the sector, thrive. I have experience as a company director and understand governance and Australian legal requirements.

Thank you for considering my application, I would greatly value to opportunity to work with a variety of people who are as enthusiastic about Social Enterprise growth as myself.

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## **Paul Mayer**

I am a social enterprise practitioner, facilitator, consultant, and coach, based in South Australia. My philosophy is that working well with people is the key to realising positive and productive organisational and social change.

I am an alumnus of the 2020 Governor's Leadership Program for South Australia and am studying a Masters in Management. I have recently completed Governance & Board Effectiveness training, in addition to units on Leadership & Governance for the Master's degree.

Previously I worked in the UK for 17 years on projects that delivered personal, professional and social outcomes, bridging the gap between creative industries and private enterprise. I built and led a social enterprise model that supported young people into purposeful careers and became financially self-sustaining. I brought that model to Adelaide and established the

work that Carclew are delivering with their Social Traders certified social enterprise, Creative Consultants.

I've been a governance geek since I was 18 when I formed and chaired a management committee for a community organisation I established. That organisation is still running today, 25 years later, and is a lasting reminder to me of the impact that good systems and governance can have. In more recent work I have supported organisations to create effective strategic plans, worked with various boards on 'board health' and across sectors on building and maintaining communities of practice.

I am keen to help build on the great work the team at SASEC have already done, to the benefit of individuals, communities, and the state.

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## **Monique Russell**

I am the Account Director for Blend Creative, an Australian Disability Enterprise. Blend Creative has a unique business model that provides real work opportunities in a Graphic Design studio for people with disability. This position utilises my strengths in management, business planning and relationship development while supporting a business model that I strongly believe in; inclusion in the community at every level.

Community is incredibly important to me as I believe that from connection stems opportunity and great things become possible.

From 2014 to 2017 I was involved with the Federation of Catholic School Parent Communities, holding the position of President from 2015 to 2017. I had a role within the Political Strategy Working Group, and as the peak voice for Catholic school parents represented the Federation on Working Groups with the DECD.

I'm currently a Deputy Member on the Teacher Registration Board and until this year, held a position on the Antonio Catholic School Board and their finance committee. I had been on the board for 9 years.

I am a passionate, articulate, driven and results focused person, with a deep seeded belief in the strength of the trust based partnership for the benefit of both parties. I work and communicate effectively across sectors and work towards goals that are mutually beneficial.

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### *Speciality Areas:*

Relationship Building	Social Procurement
Discovering Business Opportunities	Public Speaking
Human Resources Recruitment and Selection Processes	Strategic Thinking

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## **Matthew Wright-Simon**

### **Engagement facilitator and social entrepreneur**

Matthew Wright-Simon's work, volunteering and social enterprise activity is built around strong values, advocacy and action. With his pioneering ethical consultancy, Ecocreative, Matthew has focused on 'engagement for changemakers' for more than 20 years.

Matthew is also co-founder of Double Denim, a social enterprise focused on women's homelessness, and a founding trustee (and acting Dean) of the microphilanthropy powerhouse, the Awesome Foundation in his hometown of Adelaide, a group that has given away more than \$70,000. Matthew is also a board member with social enterprise, A Sign of Respect, and engagement and community director for Newday Leadership which is focused on 'inspired leadership for the greater good'.

Recently Matthew was honoured with an Impact 25 Award from Pro Bono Australia, the only South Australian represented in the year's cohort 'dedicated to positive social change.'