

CANDIDATES

REGIONAL COORDINATOR OCEANIA (ELECT ONE FOR YOUR REGION)



Elizabeth Halcomb PhD, BN (Hons), RN, GradCertICNurs, GradCertHE, FACN



An internationally award-winning nurse academic, Professor Liz Halcomb gained her PhD from the University of Western Sydney in 2006 and is currently employed at the University of Wollongong as the Professor of Primary Health Care Nursing. Before undertaking her

PhD, Professor Halcomb worked in the Intensive Care Unit and Trauma Department of a major metropolitan hospital for over ten years.

Professor Halcombs' research expertise relates to the primary care nursing workforce, chronic and complex disease and lifestyle risk factor reduction. She is also passionate about building capacity within the nursing profession and has led research about the nursing academic workforce and teaching and learning in nursing. A key feature of her work is the collaborative way in which Professor Halcomb has inspired and mentored novice nurse scholars to develop into independent researchers. This has led to both knowledge gain and improved outcomes, through increased uptake of higher degree study, particularly by primary health care nurses. In 2018, Professor Halcomb was inducted into Sigma's International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame in recognition of the significant and sustained national / international recognition of her work and its positive impact on the profession and the community. In 2020, she was named in the 100 Outstanding women nurse and midwife leaders by Women in Global Health (<https://yonm.org/>). At the University of Wollongong, Professor Halcomb plays a leadership role developing primary health care nursing research, as well as engaging multidisciplinary primary health care academics to address the growing challenges in providing health care within the community. As Head of PostGraduate Studies she works closely with PhD candidates and their supervisors to develop research training capacity and promote timely

completion of Doctoral studies. Professor Halcomb also mentors a range of early and mid-career academics to develop their careers.

Professor Halcomb has been an active Xi Omicron Chapter member since 2002, serving as Chapter Secretary, Vice President and President (two-terms). This service has allowed her to appreciate the complexity of the various Board roles and understand support needs. The two terms as President has demonstrated her capacity to lead the chapter, as well as to appreciate the complexity of running a Chapter in Oceania Region so far from the US based support of Sigma. During her term as President the chapter was rechartered to an at-large chapter, bringing four Schools of Nursing together.

Professor Halcombs' vision for the Oceania Region, now that chapters have become established, is to advance networking and collaboration across the Region to optimise the value of Sigma membership and promote Sigma values. Her priorities are to clearly define an Oceania Region Leadership group and develop a Regional strategic plan for Oceania over the next five years. As current Regional Coordinator from 2019-2021 Professor Halcomb has led the planning for the upcoming Inaugural Oceania Regional Conference. While this event has had to be virtual due to pandemic restrictions, the potential to plan an Oceania Conference to bring together chapter members from across the Region to share knowledge and promote networking is a key priority.