

Cherie Smith

Candidate Statement

As a senior fundraising professional with more than 10 years' experience in leadership roles I'm now looking for my first board role. I have had a long association with Bicycle Network as a member and Peaks Challenge participant. I am also very grateful for the support and guidance the organisation provided after a friend was killed on Mt Hotham in 2022.

I'm a long-term member of the Cams Cycling Collective, who has collaborated with Bicycle Network since 2014. As a cyclist, fundraiser and experienced events organiser I have volunteered and supported multiple fundraising events that raised much needed funds for Heart of Australia, Mater Foundation and MND and Me Foundation.

I first developed an interest in mountain biking in New Zealand when there were very few females participating in the sport. After I moved to Brisbane in 2009 I joined the Cams Cycling family, became a passionate road cyclist and have had many adventures since 2010 with this group including my two Peaks Challenge events.

My motivation to join the Bicycle Network board is so I can contribute to the future advocacy and development of cycling services the organisation has been so successful with since 1975. Ensuring women and people from diverse backgrounds are given the opportunity to participate in cycling is very important to me. As a board member I would be keenly interested in ensuring the work the organisation does remains inclusive and open to new opportunities.

As a professional fundraiser I have many years developing innovative strategies that focused on sustainable long-term funding through community engagement, successful grants applications and efficient operational processes. As a fellow of the Fundraising Institute Australia I have been recognised for my achievements in the application of best practice fundraising and support of the profession in Australia.