

Director Application – Lions Medical Research Foundation
Penny Kourra

Professional Biography

An accomplished educator, community leader and advocate for research, education and professional excellence, I bring a proven record of strategic leadership and service to national and international organisations. For over six years, I have served as a Board Member of the Lions Medical Research Foundation, driving initiatives that advance medical research and enhance community health across Australia. I enjoyed the time I served on the board and would love the opportunity to do this again.

A key achievement was initiating and establishing the Foundation's annual Gala Dinner. This helped deepen relationships with donors, partners and the community. This celebration of generosity and innovation has elevated the Foundation's visibility and impact.

In education, I serve as a Councillor on the Australian Council of TESOL Associations (ACTA), representing TESOL educators nationwide. I shape strategic direction, inform national policy on English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D) education and advocate with federal government bodies to ensure equitable access, professional development and improved learner outcomes.

Previously, as Vice President of QATESOL for seven years (and current working committee member), I led professional development programs and networking events. A highlight was co-organising a highly successful National TESOL Conference at the Hilton Hotel, featuring international speakers from the UK and Spain. Through targeted sponsorship strategies, the event delivered strong financial results, enhanced accessibility, and reinforced QATESOL's reputation as a leading professional body in Queensland.

I continue this work as I was selected to be an Adviser on the New South Wales Planning Committee for the 2026 National Conference, fostering collaboration and leadership growth in education.

My leadership is defined by service, collaboration and innovation. With expertise in governance, fundraising, sponsorship and advocacy, I am committed to strengthening purpose-driven organisations and delivering positive social change.

Personal Statement

A lifelong learner and progressive leader, I am guided by the Lions motto, “We Serve,” and a conviction that leadership empowers others through education, research and collaboration to create lasting community impact. My continued interest and fund raising within my own Club to support Lions Medical Research Foundation Board is driven by reverence for research as the catalyst for discovery, healing and progress.

I am dedicated to cultivating forward-thinking governance that enables researchers to excel, optimises resources and delivers measurable improvements in public health. Integrity, accountability and transparency underpin every decision, ensuring donor trust and ethical stewardship of funds and partnerships.

Collaboration is central to success. By nurturing open dialogue and shared purpose with researchers, universities, donors, Lions clubs and communities, we can amplify the Foundation’s legacy and national reach.

My national perspective is enriched by ACTA Councillorship, where I advance equitable education through inclusive governance and advocacy—skills directly transferable to strengthening the Foundation’s mission.

With creativity, optimism and ethical resolve, I seek to drive innovation, build resilient teams, and support medical research that transforms lives—embodying “We Serve” in every action.

Penny Kourra

President

Apple MAQ Lions Club Brisbane



Lions Club for Apple Mac Users of QLD



Apple User Group

PO BOX 7438
EAST BRISBANE QLD 4169
secretary@applemaqlions.org.au
www.applemaqlions.org.au
Ph/Fax: (07) 3895 8103

Subject: Endorsement of Application – Penny Kourra for Director, Lions Medical Research Foundation

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the **Lions Club of Apple-MAQ**, We are pleased to endorse **Lion Penny Kourra**, our current Club President, as a candidate for the position of **Director** of the **Lions Medical Research Foundation**.

Lion Penny is an active member in good standing.

The Lions Club of Apple-MAQ fully supports and confirms her suitability as a candidate for Director and believes she will make a valuable contribution to the ongoing success of the Foundation.

Thank you for considering this endorsement. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Nikki Phillips

Lions Club of Apple-MAQ

Penny Kourra

President