

Nominee Statement: Brandon A. M. Ah Tong

Position: IAPB Western Pacific Regional Chair

Nominee Job Title

Director, Global Policy and Advocacy

Nominee Organisation

The Fred Hollows Foundation

Nominating IAPB member organisation

The Fred Hollows Foundation

Nominated by

Jennifer Gersbeck

Nominating Statement

On behalf of The Fred Hollows Foundation (The Foundation), I hereby nominate Mr Brandon A. M. Ah Tong for the position of IAPB Western Pacific Regional Chair for the term beginning 2025. Brandon has 20 years' experience in the broader eye health sector as a policy and advocacy professional and has been an exceptional member of the senior leadership team at The Foundation since August 2016. Brandon currently holds the position of Director, Global Policy & Advocacy, where he consistently demonstrates outstanding leadership, professionalism, and a commitment to excellence that will be a particular asset to IAPB and the membership in the Western Pacific Region at this time.

Throughout his tenure with The Foundation, Brandon has excelled in various capacities, showing remarkable versatility and adaptability from the global to local level. He is the focal point for our official relations collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and leads our engagement at the United Nations in New York. He has also played a pivotal role in helping the sector embrace the broader opportunity of reframing eye health as a sustainable development issue.

In addition to being exceptionally technically proficient in the field of eye health, Brandon possesses a keen ability to guide long-term institutional



and sector-wide strategic direction and tangible change that has benefited the Western Pacific region. His relationship with the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, resulted in the placement of the first Sensory Functions technical officer in 2022, which continues today supporting Member States and IAPB members in the region in advance of Integrated People-centred Eye Health. His strong interpersonal skills and ability to foster relationships with a broad range of stakeholders, will hold him in good stead consulting and collaborating with members, governments and other stakeholders towards achieving the IAPB 2030 In Sight Strategy.

I highly recommend Brandon for this important role of Regional Chair at this unique time. His skills and experience will be essential as we seek to harness the power of the collective to achieve the ambition of the Global Summit on Eye Health.

[Click here for the statement.](#)

Seconded IAPB member organisation

Vision 2020 Australia

Seconding by

Carly Iles

Seconding Statement

On behalf of Vision 2020 Australia, I hereby wish to second The Fred Hollows Foundation's nomination of Mr Brandon A. M. Ah Tong for the position of IAPB Western Pacific Regional Chair. As a current Board Director, former Chair of the Global Committee, former Director of Policy and Advocacy and former interim CEO of Vision 2020 Australia, Brandon's experience working with members will hold him in good stead for this role.

Vision 2020 Australia is the National peak body for eye health and vision care in Australia, representing over 50 organisations spanning service provision, professional associations, training institutions and industry. Our strategic engagement seeks to create systemic change across the areas of independence and participation for people who are blind or have low vision, prevention and early intervention, vision and eye care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and international development in the Indo-Pacific Region.

As a proactive Board Director, committee member and former member of the executive, Brandon's long-standing commitment to eye health and the human rights of people who are blind or who have low vision working with and through a member-based organisation, makes him uniquely well

placed to support and harness the power of IAPB members in the region. Brandon is an outstanding candidate for the position of Regional Chair. His skills and experience will greatly contribute to achieving the goals of the IAPB 2030 In Sight Strategy, particularly as the sector works towards the ambitious Global Summit on Eye Health.

[Click here for the statement.](#)

Nominee Statement

Dear Members of the IAPB Western Pacific Region

I'm excited by the prospect of representing you as your IAPB Regional Chair for our Western Pacific Region.

This is a critical time for eye health. We are living through a moment of change that will not only see a shift in global development in uncertain ways, advances in technology, artificial intelligence, and rapidly changing demographics, will have a deepening impact on how we reach the unreached in eye health. Today, at the mid-point of this decade, ensuring eye health is at the table in the post 2030 era, will depend on what we do together over the next four years.

We will need to work together to ensure effective political engagement between the local, national, regional and global levels, particularly in the lead-up to and execution of the Global Summit on Eye Health.

Listening to you and elevating your voice, will be at the heart of my approach as your Regional Chair. I will work closely with the IAPB Board and secretariat as your representative to include and meet the strategic requirements of our region. I will be dedicated to working with the Head of Region in keeping you engaged in global, regional and national activities, ensuring you have the opportunity to input and advance initiatives that best meet your needs and where you work.

Why me? I have 20 years' experience working in the eye health sector as a policy and advocacy professional at the national, regional and global level. Living with blindness myself, I also have the lived experience that connects what I do, with the lives of the people we serve. I believe I have the skills and experience we need in our Regional Chair at this particular moment in time that will best serve you.



I hope to have the privilege to serve as your regional chair and together we can make a real difference and achieve our vision for 2030 In Sight.

Thank you for your support.

Brandon A. M. Ah Tong

Please feel free to reach out to me on email bahtong@hollows.org or

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