



NOMINATION FOR OMA COUNCIL POSITION

NAME:	JOE BEGLEY
POSITION/S NOMINATING FOR:	VICE PRESIDENT
FINANCIAL MEMBER OF:	QUEENSLAND MASTERS ATHLETICS
Email nomination to AMA Secretary Email: judyfarrell@australianmastersathletics.org.au	
About the Nominee: Joe joined the Oceania Masters Athletics (OMA) Council in June 2024, elected as secretary at the OMA annual general meeting in Suva, Fiji, and now seeks nomination for election as Vice-President at the 2026 annual general meeting. Joe has been active in the rejuvenation of OMA as an organisation standing on its own two feet following a period of increased reliance and over-dependence on Oceania Athletics Association (OAA) and an unsuccessful attempt to have OMA established as a Commission of OAA. One of the first decisions of the new OMA Council following the 2024 annual general meeting was to hold an OMA Championships in 2025, returning the biennial Championships to the alternate year to the WMA Championships. Joe was a member of the Local Organising Committee for the successful OMA Championships held in Brisbane in September 2025. If elected Vice President Joe would continue to prioritise ways to strengthen OMA's viability, independence and autonomy as the governing body for masters athletics in the Oceania region, including maintaining strong links with World Masters Athletics. Joe sees it as fundamentally important that OMA interacts directly with the athletics bodies in member countries representing masters athletes and that this relationship is not outsourced to OAA as happened in the period leading up to moves in 2022-24 to disband OMA and for it to be subsumed within OAA as a Masters Athletes Commission. Joe believes a key focus for OMA following the election of a new Council at the Association's 2026 Annual General Meeting will be to redouble efforts to engage with the island federations and better understand their needs and interests. Opportunities for joint OMA-OAA initiatives to promote the development of masters athletics in smaller member countries, with an emphasis on greater participation and ways to increase attendance at the biennial OMA Championships, would be supported where the benefits of cooperation and constructive engagement between the two associations were evident. Joe was the Oceania Region representative and member of the World Masters Athletics (WMA) Council for the WMA Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2024. In November 2024, following nomination by AMA, he was appointed to WMA's Organisational Committee. Joe's term as OMA secretary has given him a thorough understanding of the workings and internal governance arrangements of the association as well as a sound appreciation of the issues requiring the Council's focus as it consolidates and improves its administration of masters athletics in the Oceania region. This includes maintaining the Council's involvement with the Local Organising Committee for the 2027 OMA Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand, so as to ensure the successful staging of this major event, and to plan ahead for the 2029 Championships which are under consideration to be held in Rarotonga.	

Joe has more than 20 years of participation and involvement in masters athletics behind him – at State, national, regional and world levels. Joe has been a frequent competitor at State (Queensland) and national championships since the early 2000s and has regularly won State titles and several national titles competing in the sprint events. He has competed at six World Masters Athletics Championships – in Brisbane in 2001, Lyon, France, in 2015, Perth in 2016, Torun, Poland, in 2019 (Indoors), Gothenburg, Sweden, in 2024 and Daegu, South Korea in 2026.

Joe was a member of the Queensland Masters Athletics Management Committee from 2022 to 2024 and a Queensland delegate to AMA's annual general meeting and Council meetings. As well as being a regular competitor at Queensland Masters Athletics meets, Joe is also an active volunteer official as the need arises. He is currently completing the National Athletics Referee certificate course offered through World Masters Athletics.

In September 2024, Joe was elected as a Board Member of Australian Masters Athletics. His position on the board of AMA includes serving as chair of the Awards Committee and having specific input to policy and governance matters.

Outside of masters athletics, Joe has been retired for several years after a 52-year career in news journalism, public communications and public sector management. He has served as press secretary and media adviser to numerous Queensland Government Cabinet Ministers and worked in communications roles across a range of government departments.

The skills and experience Joe brings the OMA Council are in the areas of governance, strategy and policy, communications, and stakeholder engagement.

If elected to the position of Vice President Joe will seek to dutifully discharge the duties of the position as outlined in the Association's Constitution, specifically providing support for the President and liaising co-operatively with other Council members, Members, Associate Members and other external parties in carrying out the business and objects of OMA.

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