

18 November 2021

To Whom it May Concern

Re: Mr Mark Smith

I first met Mark in July 2019 when commencing in a Professorial role as Director of the Western Sydney Nursing and Midwifery Research Centre; a conjoint appointment between the Research and Education Network (REN) of the Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD) and Western Sydney University (WSU). Mark was the WSLHD Research Development Manager, a position he had held since 2011.

It became evident relatively quickly, that Mark had a wealth of knowledge of all aspects of medical research and its administration within the NSW Health system. In his capacity as Research Development Manager a key responsibility was that of research grant management. He established and ran all internally funded research programs provided by REN. Mark was instrumental in supporting the Nursing and Midwifery “Kickstarter” grant scheme. An annual event that involved organisation wide promotion, numerous applications, external grant review and outward facing showcase in the form of a pitch session and awards night. In addition, Mark facilitated initial discussions that led to the establishment of the Nursing and Midwifery Career Development grant scheme. In all stages of scheme development Mark provided prompt reliable and effective administrative support. These schemes were equitable and efficient because of Mark’s governance. Mark was also responsible for the submission and administration of eternally funded grant applications. In this role he provided thorough advice and support for competitive grant funding schemes. His critical review of the scientific components of grants was insightful and helpful.

In addition to grant management, Mark provided administrative support for several high-level research committees across WSLHD facilities. More specifically, his tacit knowledge of the mechanics of long-standing research and development committees provided a wealth of information and considerably reduced the amount of time needed to explore the nuances of due process. In his support of these committees, he was always conscientious, demonstrated a good eye for detail and was able to meet deadlines with efficiency. His calm efficient manner fostered a positive culture of enquiry and achievement for committee members, and he had great rapport with researchers at all levels across the organisation.

I am very pleased to commend Mark to whomever he works with in the future. I am sure he will make an enthusiastic and valuable contribution to all he does.

Yours Sincerely,



Professor Rochelle Wynne RN PhD

Professor of Nursing and Director
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