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**Diversity Statement**

“Inclusion works to the advantage of everyone. We all have things to learn and we all have something to teach.” – Kurth and Gross, The Inclusion Toolbox, page 87

This quote was written in a book that talked about implementing research-based strategies to create more inclusive education programs. Strategies such as these can be implemented in most scenarios, including building our RSE community. Diversity can come in many forms and taking it into account can make sure our community is a space for growth, learning, support, opportunity and this will ensure its sustainability.

**Relevant Experience**

*In 100 words, describe your experience of working as a Research Software Engineer.*

I have completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in Computer science and Genomics, Postgraduate Diploma in bioinformatics and a MSc in Bioinformatics.

After my Masters I spent 5 years working in the Bioinformatics research, initially in a commercial environment (a cancer diagnostics company) and then at a University.

I am currently working at NeSI as a research communities advisor, where my role is focussed on supporting research communities in New Zealand.

I am also currently doing my PhD, where I am looking at using machine learning models to predict influenza epidemics and pandemics in New Zealand.

*What skills will you bring to the committee?*

Along with my technical skills, in Bioinformatics and machine learning I am looking forward to using my community building and engagement skills to the RSE community.

Through my current role and studies, I can contribute by

* delivering training programs (such as carpentries)
* keeping the community engaged
* understanding the communities requirements
* working together with community leaders to achieve goals that we set as a community

*What would you like to change through your involvement on the committee?*

I would like to see RSE’s being recognised for their contributions in research across Australia and New Zealand. I would like to create stronger relationships with RSE communities in other countries to learn from and contribute to the local and global community. While creating strategic direction is important, I would like to convert conversations into actionable tasks to enable the community to achieve goals .

*If you have already contributed to the RSE community, please list those contributions below.*

As part of the interim RSE steering committee, I have worked with other committee members to contribute to RSE community events (i.e. RSE Workshop at eResearch Australasia 2018, RSE Bof at eResearch NZ, etc.). I participate in interim steering committee meetings to participate in the planning of RSE community activities.

I have worked with Australian and UK representatives to coordinate the NZ chapter of the International RSE Survey. I have analysed and presented the finding of this survey in Australia (ARDC Tech talk) and New Zealand (eResearch NZ 2019, Science coding conference 2019).