Aleisha McLaren

My name is Aleisha McLaren – I'm a producer at ABC Brisbane; previously, I was the Programs Manager at BIGSOUND / QMusic, and an independent artist manager. In those roles, I have sometimes been asked to explain the difference between Triple Zed and Australia's other community radio stations: there's nothing better than sharing the unmatched diversity of our grid ... and bragging that we own the building.

I grew up in Wollongong, and I didn't start to see Queensland as home until I found my way to 4ZZZ in 2018. Zed rewarded my curiosity, connected me to Brisbane's countercultural past and present. When I was developing my program, *Pash Planet*, I was proud to present local content with the same warmth, excitement and investment as 'bigger' global artists. As traditional media shrinks, I think Zed's mission to amplify local voices will be more important than ever.

As the board prepares to develop Zed's new strategic plan, I would love to contribute my perspective as a younger member of the station community. Drawing on my work with artists, government and creative businesses, I'm interested in opportunities to expand 4ZZZ's reach by building industry partnerships. Over the past eight years, I've watched the station adapt to meet significant and varied challenges – and it would be a dream to pitch in on its next chapter.