

National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced
institutional child sexual abuse

INDEPENDENT DECISION MAKERS

Mr Andrew Kristjanson

Mr Kristjanson has over 23 years' experience in complex international legal casework and independent decision making, and lead a team investigating criminal offences committed against the Commonwealth Government. He also was a team leader in securing the return of abducted children to their families under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

He has tertiary qualifications in Law and Government Investigations, and has been admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor to the Supreme Court of the ACT.

Mr Kristjanson also has significant personal experience in providing services and support to disadvantaged members of the community. He was a live-in house manager for a homeless persons' shelter, and a group facilitator for a personal growth and support group for gay and bisexual men.

Ms April Purry

Ms Purry has been a legal adviser to Commonwealth agencies for over 25 years, from private practice as a Special Counsel and in senior public service roles. Ms Purry's experience includes advising on all aspects of public law from privacy, best practice administrative decision making, discrimination, legislative interpretation, and employment issues for a range of Commonwealth Departments. Ms Purry supervised a team of public sector lawyers and personally advised on the most complex and sensitive matters, most recently in the fields of health and aged care, and conducted investigations into allegations of misconduct and breaches of legislation.

Prior to qualifying as a lawyer Ms Purry worked full time in a women's refuge for 5 years, assisting vulnerable women and their children escaping domestic violence.

Ms Purry has qualifications in law and public policy and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor to the NSW Supreme Court.

Mr Bernard Dwyer

Mr Dwyer has over 40 years' experience working in the areas of mental health, and alcohol and other drugs in both the government and non-government sectors. He has had years of experience as a counsellor working directly with clients in the community, health and forensic settings. He has held a range of appointments to boards and reference groups in the areas of social welfare, guardianship, alcohol, drugs and gambling. Mr Dwyer has worked in the Northern Territory for over 30 years, providing services to communities in Darwin, Alice Springs and remote areas.



Ms Beth Powell

Ms Powell has 30 years' experience in the Australian Public Service across strategic policy, review, development and implementation roles. Ms Powell has been responsible for the assessment and reform of key immigration policies with the Department of Home Affairs. Ms Powell has supported the development of international policy and best practice guides for the return and reintegration of migrants.

Mr Brian Sandland

Mr Sandland worked as a Commission Officer at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse for over four years, where he assisted Commissioners in the conduct of private sessions, wrote reports of these sessions and provided advice and information to the Commission. His previous employment includes a variety of positions at Legal Aid New South Wales (NSW), from legal officer up to senior executive roles, where he worked for 33 years assisting disadvantaged people with civil and criminal law cases.

Mr Sandland received an award for outstanding public service to the community through his work with NSW Legal Aid in 2006.

Carol Wall

Carol is a Solicitor who has over 12 years of experience working in senior legal roles at State and Commonwealth government departments and non-government legal settings, and specialises in government law, maritime law, administrative law, statutory interpretation, regulatory reform, child protection litigation, and family violence and sexual assault law.

Prior to studying law, Carol gained over 25 years' experience working as a Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, Sexual Health Nurse Practitioner, Critical Care Nurse Specialist, Nurse Educator, Nurse Unit Manager and as a Public Advocate for children and young people and people with disabilities. Along with Carol's nursing qualifications, she holds a Graduate Certificate in Health Service Management, Juris Doctor, Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Masters of Laws (Legal Practice) and is an Accredited Mediator with the Australian Resolution Institute.

Ms Christine Nolan

Ms Nolan has had an extensive career assisting at-risk children and adults in a range of government and community sector roles over more than 40 years. Most recently, she was CEO of the Breast Cancer Network Australia, which advocates for Australians affected by breast cancer. Ms Nolan is a social worker by training and has worked in the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Queensland in corrections, youth and family support, family violence and social policy. She has extensive experience in child protection and human service delivery. Ms Nolan was named Telstra Queensland Public Sector Businesswoman of the Year in 1997.



Ms Dawn Juratowitch

Ms Juratowitch is a social worker with more than 30 years' experience working in the area of child protection, juvenile justice and community services in both direct practice and senior executive positions across Queensland, New South Wales and in the university sector.

Ms Juratowitch was previously on the editorial board of *Child Abuse and Neglect: the International Journal* and has qualifications in both social work and law. Ms Juratowitch was a Director on the Forde Foundation Board of Advice and has been the Director of a professional practice consultancy providing counselling, mediation, strategic engagement and assessment.

Ms Deborah McLean

Ms McLean's 28 years' experience in South Australia Police extended from patrol officer through to senior management positions. As a detective, she worked in specialist investigation areas, which often saw her working to support some of the most vulnerable people in the community who were victims of serious crime. Ms McLean also has experience working with South Australia's Attorney-Generals' Department in legislative reform, and most recently assisted SafeWork South Australia to implement recommendations to enhance the agency's investigation and prosecution arrangements.

Ms Diana Knight

Ms Knight is a lawyer with extensive experience in alternative dispute resolution processes which support members of the community and people experiencing vulnerabilities, to speak up and be heard. Ms Knight is a nationally accredited mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, experienced in trauma-informed practices and culturally responsive practices. Ms Knight has enjoyed being an academic and law lecturer, and most recently enjoyed her work with the ACT Human Rights Commission, helping Canberrans resolve complaints about discrimination, health services, disability and community services. Ms Knight is an educator, and shares her enthusiasm for conflict resolution through training and coaching other professionals in mediation. Throughout her career, Ms Knight has demonstrated her skills at managing sensitive and complex cases. Ms Knight is an experienced mediator, family dispute resolution practitioner and conciliator.

Mr Fergus McTaggart

Mr McTaggart has over 13 years' experience as a legal practitioner across Victoria. He has established a deep understanding of child protection matters through his time working as a child protection litigation officer, a role where he has represented and advocated on behalf of highly vulnerable members of the Victorian community.

Mr McTaggart has qualifications in legal practice and ethics and received the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship in 2016 to evaluate cultural connections in Indigenous child protection cases across New Zealand, Canada, the United States of America and Denmark.

Ms Frankie Anderson

Ms Anderson has over 14 years of Law Enforcement experience, which was utilised when Ms Anderson previously worked with the National Redress Scheme as a Quality Assurance Officer. Ms Anderson's additional 26-year experience with South Australia's Attorney General's Department provided the opportunity to work with some of the most vulnerable members of society, many who were victims of crime.

Ms Anderson has used her investigative knowledge throughout her career and applies excellent research, analytical and problem solving skills to all of her roles. She has qualifications in Social Science, Justice Administration, Liberal Studies and Fraud Control Investigations.

Ms Ginan Ashcroft

Ms Ashcroft is a solicitor with professional experience in Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. She has been an Assessor at New South Wales (NSW) Victims Services in the Department of Justice where she assessed sensitive applications from victims of crime, including victims of child sexual abuse. Ms Ashcroft has worked in child protection advocacy where she participated in a Koori Family Hearing Day program, aimed to provide a culturally responsive court process to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Most recently, Ms Ashcroft has worked at the Coroners Court of Victoria assisting in the investigation of deaths to promote public health and safety. Ms Ashcroft has a master's degree in criminology as well as qualifications in law and communications.

Dr Grant O'Neill

Dr O'Neill has over thirty years of experience as an academic. He has an academic background in sociology, public policy and management, and held teaching, research and leadership roles across five universities. He taught in a range of academic areas including the sociology of health, welfare, social work, social policy, management and leadership. Dr O'Neill held numerous senior management and executive leadership roles, most recently as Professor of Management and Deputy Vice Chancellor Colleges at Murdoch University.

As a PhD qualified sociologist and executive leader, Dr O'Neill has very considerable experience in policy development, analysis and application. He has been responsible for the interpretation and application of Commonwealth and State legislation and policy, and has extensive research informed decision-making experience.

Ms Helen Ferguson PSM

Ms Ferguson has over 20 years' experience with the Queensland Public Service. Ms Ferguson held senior executive positions in Disability Services, Housing, Child Safety and Community Services and has expertise in social and public policy, legislative reform, governance, research and evaluation and direct service delivery. Ms Ferguson's career has been grounded through qualifications in social work and nursing and by roles at the local and regional level. Ms Ferguson has been awarded a Public Service Medal for outstanding public service to social policy development and implementation in Queensland.

Ms Helen Lac

Ms Lac has experience in considering sensitive applications from victims of crime as an assessor and senior assessor with Victims Services, New South Wales, Department of Justice. She has undertaken extensive training on therapeutic and trauma-informed practices as part of her work with victims of crime. Additionally, she has chaired discussions on non-disclosure in child sexual abuse cases, the impact of childhood trauma, and legislative and policy responses to childhood sexual abuse at the International Victimology Symposium. Ms Lac has worked with Indigenous community groups and organisations in the Northern Territory and regional NSW, having assisted survivors of institutional child sexual abuse through the Strong Aboriginal Women's Conferences. Before working in public and community service, she was a corporate lawyer specialising in advocacy, guardianship and administrative law.

Ms Helen Porter

Ms Porter's professional experience spans across a range of legal practice areas following her admission as a Barrister and Solicitor in 1983. Her most recent role as Chief Assessor in the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation, Department of the Attorney General for Western Australia, determined compensation for persons injured in the commission of offences, including victims of sexual abuse. Ms Porter's 16 years' with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions included conduct of matters in the Children's Court, the prosecution of sexual offences involving adult and child complainants, and appearances as counsel at evidence pre-recordings from Child Witnesses and Special Witnesses. Ms Porter had involvement in the legislative design and structure of the West Australian National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2018.

Ms Hilary Russell

Ms Russell has a diverse professional history across criminal law, the health, welfare and education sectors, and the delivery of strategic planning and policy at both Commonwealth and state level. Ms Russell has a multifaceted understanding of the experience of victims of abuse through her legal experience and previous role as Independent Advisor and Chair of the Decision Review Panel (Australian Capital Territory Office for Children), where she reviewed decisions relating to children who were the subject of a protection order. As a legal advocate, Ms Russell has worked with Indigenous clients in rural and remote New South Wales and Victoria. Ms Russell has qualifications in law, business administration and social work.

Ms Janie Lawson

Ms Lawson has a diverse 30 year career spanning community and government sectors. She initially provided direct support to vulnerable people in mental health, child protection, disability and youth residential settings before moving to policy and senior management roles in state and federal government agencies. She has been involved in progressing major policy reforms including the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and the Mental Health Reform Agenda and has experience designing, implementing and evaluating community based programs. Ms Lawson has tertiary qualifications in Health Education and credentials in human relations, government administration, training and leadership.



Ms Jo Searle

Ms Searle has significant experience in the education and human services fields, at senior levels across both government and community sectors, and led the delivery of the Queensland Government Redress Scheme which commenced in 2007. Ms Searle was a Director on the Forde Foundation Board of Advice for more than 9 years, making recommendations to the Public Trustee of Queensland on the provision of grants to support former residents who experienced abuse in Queensland children's institutions.

Ms Searle contributed to the Forde Foundation Board of Advice submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

Mr John Hinchey PSM

Mr Hinchey has 30 years of experience working with offenders and victims in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) criminal justice system. He managed the ACT Sentence Administration Board and the ACT Victims Register. He established the ACT restorative justice scheme, which facilitates conferences between victims and offenders. Mr Hinchey was appointed as the ACT's first Victims of Crime Commissioner, an independent statutory position and the ACT's most senior victim advocate. Mr Hinchey has also been a Board member of the ACT Domestic Violence Crisis Service and the ACT Victims Advisory Board, a Council Member on the Domestic Violence Prevention Council and chair of the ACT Family Violence Intervention Program Coordinating Committee.

Mr John Schrader

Mr Schrader completed a 38 year career with the South Australia Police where he held specialist investigation and senior management positions. He was the inaugural manager of the department's e-crime section and developed its capacity to conduct investigations and safely retrieve and store digital evidence, including child exploitation material. Mr Schrader also managed police prosecution operations and headed the South Coast Criminal Investigation Branch where he managed investigations of serious crimes including child abuse and family violence. He has worked closely with victims, including those of sexual assault and abuse, and led projects aligned with victim and justice agencies to improve support and prosecution outcomes for victims. Mr Schrader recently managed a South Australian Government agency's response to issues identified in the Child Protection Systems Royal Commission. He has qualifications in law and psychology and was admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the Supreme Court of South Australia in 2010.

Ms Julie Dixon

Ms Dixon has over 30 years' experience as a social worker in child and family welfare. Ms Dixon initially worked in child protection, followed by positions in women's health and as a manager in the West Australian Family and Domestic Violence Unit. Much of Ms Dixon's experience has focused on policy and across government responses to child and family wellbeing, working with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and in Indigenous affairs. Most recently, Ms Dixon has held senior government roles overseeing the design, development and funding of early intervention programs to create strong families and prevent children entering out of home care. She has also initiated research to identify and improve outcomes for young people who have left care.

Ms Karen Whitney

Ms Whitney is a legal practitioner with over 30 years' experience in Western Australia (WA) Government, academia, and private legal practice. She served as President of the Mental Health Tribunal WA from 2017-2022 and before that was a full time Ordinary Member of the WA State Administrative Tribunal. Ms Whitney spent eight years as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer at two WA Law Schools and worked for many years in leadership roles in the Office of the Western Australian Ombudsman and the WA Legal Profession Complaints Committee.

Ms Kay Benham

Ms Benham has expertise and extensive knowledge of the impacts of child sexual abuse gained throughout her career as a social worker, manager, policy maker and senior executive in a range of roles within the Western Australia (WA) Public Service. She is an experienced practitioner and worked in a range of child protection roles for over 25 years. Her experience includes working with victims of crime and child witnesses, providing counselling and specialist support to adults and children who are required to give evidence in sexual abuse and other criminal matters.

During her time with the WA Public Service Ms Benham also worked in the Family Court and gave evidence to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse on several occasions. She has postgraduate qualifications in Social Work and a Master of Business Administration.

Ms Keyana Low

Ms Low has a background and qualifications in law and social work. She has been a solicitor in insurance and administrative law and has worked as a social worker in sexual assault and mental health. She has been an Assessor with Victims Services, the New South Wales (NSW) Department of Justice where she assessed claims for victims of crime, including family victims of homicide. In her time with the NSW Department of Justice, Ms Low held roles as a Senior Assessor and Co-ordinator in the Families and Friends of Missing Persons Unit.



Ms Lisa Foreman

Ms Foreman has worked in the Australian and ACT Public Services as senior manager in the area of social policy for over 30 years. This included working in the Ombudsman's Office, where she was required to investigate complaints from individuals about decisions made by government agencies and advise the Ombudsman of the most appropriate response. Ms Foreman also led the development of an engagement framework when working the Department of Social Services to assist staff working with First Nations Australians about proposed changes to policies and programs. This Framework was developed with First Nations Australians across Australia. While with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Ms Foreman led the Policy Division. This included the development and implementation of a new Veteran Payment for veterans with who lodge a claim for compensation for a mental health condition. Ms Foreman also led the team responsible for new policy relating to claims for compensation from former members of the Australian Defence Force who experienced sexual abuse as children or young adults. Ms Foreman worked closely with the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce (DART), veterans' organisations.

Ms Lisa Jackson

Ms Jackson has provided independent consulting services to agencies specialising in child protection for over 6 years. Ms Jackson is a Bundjalung/Noongar person with an extensive work history in working with Aboriginal people in urban, rural and remote environments.

Ms Jackson is responsible for providing government and non-government entities with independent consultation, interpretation of legislation and policy, identifying gaps in service delivery and providing education and professional advice in regards to engaging with, and maintaining relationships with Aboriginal client/family.

Ms Lisa Nicholas

Ms Nicholas has twenty years' experience working in legal and policy roles. She has held positions in private practice, in government and the community sector, with professional experience gained in the United Kingdom as well as Australia. She has had extensive training and experience in trauma- informed practice, beginning with her work at the Coroners Court of Victoria. Ms Nicholas then spent nearly five years working as a Commission Officer in the private sessions legal team for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Most recently, she assisted survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to understand and exercise their legal rights to redress, civil compensation or victims of crime payments. Ms Nicholas holds tertiary qualifications in Science and Law and has been admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor to the Supreme Court of Victoria.

Ms Lynn Houlahan

Ms Houlahan is a registered psychologist with over 35 years' experience working with children and adults with developmental disabilities and mental health issues. She was formerly a manager of Child Protection and Disability Services with the New South Wales (NSW) Government and has experience in private practice. Most recently Ms Houlahan worked with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse where she carried out a number of roles for the duration of the Commission including as a consulting psychologist, counsellor and Commission Officer.

Ms Houlahan has served on NSW tribunals and boards including the Mental Health Review Tribunal, Guardianship and Equal Opportunity Divisions of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the Housing Appeals Committee. She has conducted independent reviews and service evaluations on a range of matters including sexual assault and child deaths in the out of home care system.

Ms Maria Cosmidis

Ms Cosmidis is a qualified social worker and has extensive experience working across a range of government, legal and community sector settings in New South Wales (NSW). Ms Cosmidis has worked as a Regional Manager with the NSW Trustee & Guardian, where she was substitute decision maker for people with disabilities, and is a former CEO of South West Sydney Legal Centre.

Ms Cosmidis has vast experience working with diverse and multicultural communities and previously worked as a Multicultural Programs Manager for the AFL NSW/ACT. She is a current board and hearing member of the Medical Council of NSW. Ms Cosmidis has qualifications in Arts, Social Work and has a Masters of Management.

Ms Marilyn Cox

Ms Cox is a lawyer with experience working in a range of government and corporate roles. She has been an Assessor with Victims Services, New South Wales (NSW) Department of Justice where she assessed claims for victims of crime, including family victims of homicide, a specialist role requiring an understanding of therapeutic jurisprudence. More recently, Ms Cox has been acting under the delegated authority of the NSW Legal Services Commissioner, performing investigative functions pursuant to the Legal Profession Uniform Law.

Ms Melanie Bartlett

Ms Bartlett has over 40 years of experience as a lawyer in both private practice and as a magistrate, in which she dealt with a range of child protection matters, including child sexual abuse. She has sat on a number of legal tribunals and boards, including as a member of the Guardianship and Administration Board. She was a Commissioner for the Legal Aid Commission of Tasmania and a member of the Mental Health Tribunal. She was previously a Victims of Crime Commissioner and a representative on the North West Domestic Violence Advisory Committee.

Mr Michael O'Connell AM APM

Mr O'Connell has a long and distinguished career promoting the rights of victims of crime in Australia, including 12 years as South Australia's, and Australia's, first Commissioner for Victims' Rights, and globally as, among other activities, the Secretary-General, World Society of Victimology and Chair of its United Nations Liaison Committee. Mr O'Connell received the Member of the Order of Australia in 2017 for improving outcomes for victims of crime, and was a finalist for the South Australia Australian of the Year Award in 2020 and 2004. Mr O'Connell served as a summons expert, and was a session participant, in the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, has a background in law enforcement, and holds qualifications in victimology and victim assistance, business and justice administration.

Dr Nick Freeburn

Dr Nick Freeburn proudly belongs to the Bundjalung Nation and has worked in government and non-government organisations, services and businesses for more than 38 years. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 2004 and is a qualified chef, but instead of practicing his trade in commercial cookery, he gained degrees in different disciplines; Indigenous Studies, Indigenous Research and Leadership, Research Methods, Social Science, Adult Education and Indigenous Philosophies. He graduated with his Doctor of Indigenous Philosophies from Gnibi College of Indigenous Australian People at Southern Cross University in April 2019 and during his post graduate studies he had created a mini documentary titled 'On Common Ground'. He is now studying for his Doctor of Philosophy with the Batchelor Institute in the Northern Territory where he is undertaking a rigorous research approach in developing, implementing and evaluating a therapeutic safe healing program from the ground up.

Mr Peter Crouch

Mr Crouch has over 42 years of experience working within the South Australian criminal justice system as a Police Officer. He worked for 30 of those years as a Detective across a wide range of specialist investigations. He has a strong investigative and senior supervisory background in the investigation of sexual offences, homicide, anti-corruption, financial investigations and the overall case management of serious crime investigations.

Mr Peter Morrison

Mr Morrison has extensive experience prosecuting and defending child sexual abuse matters, with over 15 years' experience in criminal law. He currently works as a barrister, predominately in criminal law. Mr. Morrison previously worked at a Royal Commission and was responsible for the development and implementation of guidelines, policies, and practices and the provision of regulatory and compliance advice. Mr Morrison's past experiences include working as a Prosecutor and Crown Prosecutor within the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (in Adelaide and Brisbane, respectively) and as a solicitor and barrister in the private sector in South Australia.

Mr Robert (Rob) Brown

Mr Brown has worked for over 35 years in the child protection and health fields across Australia and the United Kingdom. In his roles, he supervised and managed child protection and safeguarding staff in both countries and worked at policy, programme and senior management levels. As a social worker he has managed child protection caseloads and represented and supported survivors of child sexual abuse.

Mr Brown has qualifications in Psychology and Social Work.

Ms Robyn Eltherington PSM

Ms Eltherington has a long history of supporting and advocating on behalf of Forgotten Australians and former residents of Queensland children's institutions. Ms Eltherington oversaw the implementation of key aspects of the Queensland Government Redress Scheme, and in 2012 was recognised with a Public Service Medal for her outstanding contribution. Ms Eltherington has over 35 years' experience in the public sector and non-government organisations in policy, program and service delivery roles.

Ms Robyn Higgins

Ms Higgins has extensive experience in service delivery and management in the community sector in the Northern Territory and in the public sector in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT). She has worked as an advocate in ACT Victim Support Services, assisting victims of crime to participate in processes to respond to harm, including the criminal justice system. She assisted in establishing the Complainant Support Group in the former Defence Abuse Response Taskforce, managing a team who provided trauma informed support and responses to victims of abuse in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). At the conclusion of the Taskforce, when an independent abuse reporting function was established within the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman, she established and managed a dedicated team that continued to respond to victims of abuse in the ADF.

Ms Robyn Straub

Ms Straub identifies as an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and has been CEO of Tharawal Local Aboriginal Land Council.

Ms Straub has held Indigenous advisory and managerial positions at Coles Supermarket, Australian Football League in NSW and ACT, Campbelltown City Council, as well as middle management and co-ordinator roles in various government departments. More recently, has been an independent consultant for various organisations, providing advice on Aboriginal communities and culture and heritage issues, including land access, training programs and internal processes.

Ms Ruth Baker

Ms Baker is a lawyer and social worker with over 27 years of experience working with survivors of child abuse in both community and state settings in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Australia. Her social work career included various roles in out of home care and child protection. Following admission to legal practice in 2006, she practiced in civil and criminal compensation claims for survivors of institutional abuse in Victoria. Most recently she completed a four year term with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse as a Commission Officer in the Private Sessions Legal Team.

Ms Ruth Richter

Ms Richter has over 25 years' experience working in the human services sector.

She began her career working in direct service provision for disability support services before moving into various roles in the NSW Government. These government roles have included as a Principal Guardian for the Office of the Public Guardian, as Senior Review Officer (disability death reviews) for the NSW Ombudsman, and as Manager of the Investigation Unit at the Guardianship Tribunal (now the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal).

Ms Richter has also held senior roles in reputable consulting firms, including Ernst and Young. These consulting roles have involved working with government and non- government organisations to design and implement best practice safeguarding policies, conduct internal investigations into the mistreatment of vulnerable people, and undertake program reviews.

Ms Richter's most recent role has been at an Assistant Director, Policy for the Royal Commission into the Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability.

Justice Shan Tennent

Justice Tennent is a former Justice of the Supreme Court of Tasmania, she held this position between March 2005 and October 2017, and was the first woman to be appointed to the Court. Prior to her appointment, she practiced law in Hobart with a focus on family law cases. She was partner at Hobart firm, Pager Seager, for fifteen years from 1983 until 1998. In 1998 Justice Tennent was appointed a Magistrate and Coroner and conducted a major inquest in 2000/2001 into five deaths in the Risdon Prison. This led to significant reform including the building of a new prison and separate mental health facility. In March 2019, Justice Tennent was inducted into the Tasmanian Honour Roll of Women for her service to justice and human rights.

Ms Stamatia Stamatellis

Ms Stamatellis is a lawyer and nationally accredited mediator with 30 years' experience in the legal and social services sectors. She is a Senior Member of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT), and a past member of the Guardianship Division of the New South Wales (NSW) Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) and the NSW Housing Appeals Committee. She worked as a solicitor with NSW Legal Aid and the Intellectual Disability Rights Service. Prior to practicing as a solicitor Ms Stamatellis worked in the social welfare sector with vulnerable client groups, providing direct services and in policy development roles.

Mr Stuart Roberts

Mr Roberts was admitted as a legal practitioner in 1980 and the majority of his career as a lawyer has been in family law. He is a barrister and is nationally accredited as a mediator. He was a Federal Magistrate and a Federal Circuit Court Judge for over 15 years, presiding in courts in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. He is currently a legal member of the Guardianship stream of the Tasmanian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Mr Roberts worked for the Department of Immigration in Hobart, Canberra, London and New York.

Ms Susan Beattie

Ms Beattie has held multiple senior management roles across the public service and community sectors, focusing on driving service improvement and reform. Most recently this has included as Director at the Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, as well as at the Independent Commission of Inquiry into Queensland Police Service Responses to Domestic and Family Violence (2022).

Ms Beattie previously led the domestic and family violence death review process in Queensland and assisted coroners in their investigations of relevant reportable deaths, including of children known to the child protection system. She also supported the State Coroner to establish the independent, multidisciplinary Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board. Ms Beattie holds a Masters of Forensic Mental Health, a Bachelor of Behavioural Sciences (Psychology) and is a Managing Director on a number of community boards and committees.

Ms Tarina Mather

Ms Mather has a background in child protection, with over 20 years' experience in case management, investigations (including child sexual abuse) and senior management roles. Ms Mather was a senior executive at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) having worked there for its five year duration, leading teams to deliver key volumes of the final report. Ms Mather has extensive experience in public administration, public policy and oversight functions having worked in a range of State and Commonwealth government agencies and more recently as a senior executive in online safety.



Ms Vanessa Viaggio

Ms Viaggio has over 15 years' experience working on policy and legal matters. She worked at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse for over two years in a range of roles including as a Commission Officer and Team Leader. During her time with the Royal Commission, Ms Viaggio conducted investigations into allegations of child sexual abuse and institutional responses, led teams of lawyers to run public hearings, and provided strategic advice to Commissioners and senior managers. She has a background in law and social science (criminology), and worked in various inquiry settings including the Royal Commission, the Australian Law Reform Commission, and the New South Wales (NSW) Parliament. Ms Viaggio has also worked in legislative and policy settings in the NSW Department of Justice, and in strategic and investigative oversight at the NSW Ombudsman's office. She currently holds a role within the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.