

Great to Eight: a 10 Year Research Agenda for Child Wellbeing 0-8

Governance Committee

November 2019

Jay Weatherill (Chair)

Mr Weatherill is a former Premier of South Australia who retired from parliament on 6 December 2018 after serving as Member for Cheltenham since 2002. When serving as Minister, he held a range of portfolios including Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation, Families and Communities, Education and Early Childhood Development. With degrees in law and economics, Mr Weatherill had a successful career in law before entering politics. Since his retirement from politics, Mr Weatherill has been appointed as an industry professor at the University of South Australia.

Gillian Calvert (Deputy Chair & Stream Lead, Loved & Safe)

Ms Calvert has had an extensive career providing leadership in the human services sector across government and non-government roles. Ms Calvert served as the New South Wales Commissioner for Children and Young People from 1999-2009. In 2009 Ms Calvert was awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia for her service to the community as a leading advocate in the protection of the rights and welfare of children and youth. Ms Calvert holds a Bachelor of Social Work, Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Business Administration. Ms Calvert is currently serving on the Board of Directors for Life Without Barriers.

Jessica Macpherson (Stream Lead, Material Basics)

Ms Macpherson is the CEO and one of the founding members of St Kilda mums, an organisation what rehomes preloved nursery goods to contribute to children being happy, healthy and safe. Ms Macpherson's work has contributed to the wellbeing of over 18,000 babies and children. Ms Macpherson holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Spanish. In 2017 Ms Macpherson was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women in recognition of her significant contribution to the Victorian community.

Suzanne Packer (Stream Lead, Healthy)

Since starting her career as a paediatrician in 1972, Dr Sue Packer AM has worked tirelessly to advocate for the rights of children. Sue has been a leader in child abuse prevention and treatment through the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect since its early days. Sue has championed the importance of early childhood environments for the developing brain, leading to recognition by education and government agencies. Sue was one of the driving forces behind the acknowledgement of the importance of creating child-friendly spaces in hospitals and the value of play in recovery. She is the 2019 Senior Australian of Year.

Samantha Page (Stream Lead, Learning)

Ms Page is the CEO of Early Childhood Australia and has 20 years' experience working across a range of human services roles. Ms Page holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Master of Community Organisation Management. With a passion for social equality, Ms Page also serves on the boards of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and the Australian Council of Social Service.

Colin Pettit (Stream Lead, Participating)

Mr Pettit is the Western Australia Commissioner for Children and Young People. Mr Pettit has spent his career working to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in WA having worked as a teacher, a principal and as the Executive Director Regional and Remote Education at the WA Department of Education. In 2019 Mr Pettit was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education from Edith Cowan University.

Ngiare Brown (Stream Lead, Positive Sense of Culture & Identity)

Professor Brown is a Yuin nation woman from the south coast of NSW. She is a senior Aboriginal medical practitioner with qualifications in medicine, public health and primary care, and has studied bioethics, medical law and human rights. She was the first identified Aboriginal medical graduate from NSW, and is one of the first Aboriginal doctors in Australia. Ngiare is a founding member and was Foundation CEO of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association (AIDA); is a founding member of the Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors' Congress (PRIDoC); and is Chair of the Health, Rights and Sovereignty committee of PRIDoC. She has made extensive contributions to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, research process, bioethics, policy, translation and practice. She is dedicated to Aboriginal child and adolescent wellbeing, and supporting communities to develop initiatives focused on cultural education, and breaking the intergenerational cycles of disparity.

Industry Experts:

Richard Larkins (Philanthropy)

Professor Larkins served as Chancellor of La Trobe University from 2017 until March 2019. Professor Larkins is a respected medical researcher, physician and University leader. Professor Larkins was member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council from 1977-2000, and served as Chairman of the NHMRC from 1997-2000. Professor Larkins has been a Governor for the Ian Potter Foundation since 2013. In 2002 Professor Larkins was awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia. In 2019 he was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia.

Carolyn Curtis (Innovation)

Ms Curtis is the CEO of The Australian Centre for Social Innovation and has over 20 years' experience in social innovation and child welfare. She was the founding Director of Family by Family, an Australian first social venture. Ms Curtis is a Non-Executive Director for world-leading social innovation network, The Social Innovation Exchange and sits on the boards of The Fay Fuller Foundation and The Difference Incubator.

Michael Hogan (Government)

Mr Hogan is the Director-General for the Queensland Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. He has over 20 years' experience in senior government roles in QLD, NSW and at a federal level. Mr Hogan has served on the Boards of the NSW Council of Social Service and the Consumers' Health Forum of Australia, and was chair of the Community Services Review Council in New South Wales. Mr Hogan holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and a Bachelor of Laws.

Michael Gonski (Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership)

Michael Gonski is a Partner in Herbert Smith Freehills' Employment Pensions and Incentives practice. He sits on the Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership, is a Director of the Gonski Foundation and the Chairman of the Sydney Story Factory. His other philanthropic interests include the New South Wales chapter of the Next Generation of Giving program run by Philanthropy Australia and the Greater Western Sydney AFL young executive committee. Michael holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Laws from the University of New South Wales. He was awarded Philanthropy Australia's Emerging Philanthropy Leader in 2014.

