



Australian Press Council Public Members

Cheryl Attenborough



Cheryl Attenborough is Managing Director of Attejude Pty Ltd, which trades as the Tasmanian Woollen Co, a specialist woollen retail outlet in Hobart.

Cheryl studied teaching at the Catholic College of Education Sydney and completed an Arts degree at Macquarie University. She commenced working in 1983 and her career path has taken her into the fields of education, retail, finance, public sector administration and small business.

Cheryl has served on community based boards and committees and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She was an inaugural member of the Tasmanian Communities Online Advisory Board from 2003-2006. In 2009-2010 she served as Chair of the Designer Craft Co-operative Ltd, leading the organisation through a period of change.

Cheryl has been a public member since July 2004.

John Fleetwood



John is the Manager Employee Relations at ETSA Utilities, the South Australian distributor of electricity. Prior to his current position, John held a number of Union positions over 18 years. He was the Senior Industrial Officer for the South Australian Salaried Medical Officers' Association and prior to that was Director of the South Australian branch of the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia. Before that he was the Industrial Team Leader of the South Australian and Northern Territory branch of the Australian Services Union.

He has also been a Board member of the Electricity Industry Superannuation Scheme. Prior to his Union career he was employed in the electricity industry.

He was appointed to the panel of Public Members in April 2004.

Professor Ron Grunstein



Ron Grunstein is currently Head, Sleep and Circadian Research Group, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research, University of Sydney and co-Chief Investigator, National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia (NHMRC) Centre for Respiratory and Sleep Medicine at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney. He is also a Chief Investigator, NHMRC Australasian Sleep Trials Network and Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of Sydney.

He heads a multi-disciplinary group of clinical researchers focused on various aspects of healthy sleep and sleep disorders. Ron is currently medical advisor to the patient advocacy group, Sleep Disorders Australia. He has Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery degrees and a postgraduate Doctor of Medicine from the University of Sydney and a PhD from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Ron is the current President of the World Federation of Sleep Research and Sleep Medicine Societies.

He was appointed to the panel of Public Members in June 2008.

Brenton Holmes



Brenton is a Senior Researcher in Politics and Public Administration in the Parliamentary Library in Canberra. A former Senior Clerk of Committees in the Australian Senate, he managed such controversial inquiries as 'children overboard' and the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement.

Before moving to Canberra, Brenton spent much of his career in South Australia, as a teacher, adult education office and state public service executive. He has been active in numerous community, educational and arts-related organisations. In early 2010 Brenton took time off to write a book on the moral and political philosophy of citizenship, before joining the Parliamentary Library later that year.

Brenton has a BSc in mathematics, a BA in politics and an MLit(Hons) in philosophy.

Brenton has been a Public Member of the Press Council since 2003.

Colin Neave AM



Colin has practised as a Solicitor, been Company Secretary of a listed company and held leadership positions in Federal and State Attorney General Departments and in the NSW Legal Aid Commission. He commenced as the Banking and Financial Services Ombudsman in February 1996 and was appointed Chief Ombudsman of the Financial Ombudsman Service on 1 July 2008.

He has been the Chairman of the Commonwealth Consumer Affairs Advisory Council (and its predecessors) since July 1997 and the Legal Services Board, Victoria, from December 2005. He has been President of the Administrative Review Council (Cwth) since May 2010.

Colin was appointed a Public Member in March 2011 and was appointed Vice-Chair in October 2011.

Lisa Scaffidi



Lisa Scaffidi has been a Councillor of the City of Perth since 2000 and was elected as the first female Lord Mayor in 2007, a position which she currently holds.

Prior to that, Lisa was for more than ten years the State Director in Western Australia for CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia), an apolitical organization which looks at economic and social issues impacting Australia. Her earlier career was in the hospitality and export sectors.

Lisa has been a public member of the Press Council since July 2003.

Robyne Schwarz



Robyne has served on a number of Public Sector and Not for Profit Boards since retiring from the Royal Children's Hospital in 2002. She is currently President of the Victorian Health Services Review Council and Chair of the Advisory Board of the Australian Centre for Jewish Civilization at Monash University. She is also a member of the Royal Children's Hospital Clinical Ethics Committee.

Previously, Robyne has been a Community Member of the Victorian Psychologists and Osteopaths Registration Boards and of the Regional Board of the Psychology Board of Australia.

Robyne has served as President of Jewish Care Victoria and Chair of the Federation of Jewish Aged and Community Services Organisations. She has also been a Lecturer in the School of Social Work at University of Melbourne and a Director of the Australian Association of Social Workers.

Robyne was appointed as a Public Member in December 2011

Melissa Seymour-Dearness



Melissa completed her Bachelor of Laws in 2003 and until recently practised as a solicitor at a regional firm in Hervey Bay with a particular interest in criminal defence, industrial relations law and antidiscrimination law. During this time she volunteered as a solicitor with the Taylor Street Legal Centre and is a member of the Management Committee of the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre Inc which operates a number of community-based programs.

Melissa currently works for the Fraser Coast Regional Council's town planning department where she advises Council in relation to planning legal issues and manages appeals lodged with the Planning and Environment Court. She also enjoys taking an active role in workplace matters such as workplace health and safety issues, equal opportunity and anti-discrimination practices and enterprise bargaining negotiations.

Melissa was appointed a public member of the Press Council in March 2009.