

# National School Resourcing Board

## Members of the National School Resourcing Board

### Chair – Dr Chris Sarra

Dr Sarra is a Gurang Gurang/Taribelang Bunda man and CEO and founder of the Stronger Smarter Institute, an independent and not-for-profit organisation which operates nationwide to ensure Indigenous students achieve a brighter future. His career spans more than 30 years in positive education reform for Indigenous and non-Indigenous students based on the Stronger Smarter Philosophy.

Prior to returning to the role of CEO in 2025, Dr Sarra held several Director General roles in the Queensland Government, including leading the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; and the Office of First Nations Engagement and Innovation.

Dr Sarra has more than 30 years experience in the field of education, commencing his profession as a secondary PE and English teacher in Queensland. In 1998 he was appointed Principal of Cherbourg State School, where he improved school attendance, literacy and numeracy outcomes and lead positive change and the pursuit of excellence in an Aboriginal school. From 2016 to 2018, he was a part-time Professor of Education at the University of Canberra, where he taught and researched in areas including school leadership, Indigenous education and educational equity in Australia.

Dr Sarra has extensive board experience, including as Co-Chairman of the Prime Minister's Indigenous Advisory Committee (2017-2018), Commissioner of the Australian Rugby League Commission (2012-2018), Co-Chair of the National Australia Bank Indigenous Advisory Group (2011-2015), and Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board (2004-2008).

In recognition of his contribution to the field of education, Dr Sarra was named Queenslander of the Year in 2004, Queensland's Australian of the Year in 2010, and National NAIDOC Person of the Year in 2016.

Dr Sarra holds a PhD in Psychology from Murdoch University, an Executive Master of Public Administration from Griffith University, a Master of Education and Bachelor of Education from Queensland University of Technology.

### Deputy Chair – Professor Bronwyn Fredericks

Professor Bronwyn Fredericks is Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Engagement) at the University of Queensland. She has over 30 years of experience working in and with the tertiary sector, State and Federal Governments, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based organisations.

Professor Fredericks graduated from Brisbane College of Advanced Education with a Diploma of Teaching (Secondary Education) in 1989 and completed her Bachelor of Education at Queensland University of Technology in 1991, followed by a Master of Education (Leadership Education) in 1996. She completed a further Master of Education Studies at the University of Tasmania in 2000. Professor Fredericks was awarded her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in 2004 from Central Queensland University for her thesis titled 'Us Speaking about Women's Health: Aboriginal women's perceptions and experiences of health, well-being, identity, body and health services'.

In 2017, Professor Fredericks was appointed as one of two Commissioners with the Queensland Productivity Commission (QPC) and was the presiding commissioner leading the Inquiry into Service Provision in Discrete and Remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

Professor Fredericks is a member of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Research Advisory Committee, the Beyond Blue National Research Advisory Committee, a NATSIEC representative for Universities Australia, and a member of the Australian Research Council's (ARC) College of Experts.

### Professor Janet Clinton

Professor Janet Clinton is a Professor of Evaluation at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne. Professor Clinton is an internationally recognised expert in Evaluation, Education and Assessment. She has worked in Australia, New Zealand, and the USA, and has been a principal investigator on many large complex evaluations and research projects. She has led over 120 international evaluation and research projects across multiple disciplines, particularly in Education and Health. Recently, she was the principal evaluator for the Australian Professional Standards for Teaching. She is the lead investigator of the Visible Classroom initiative, the Teacher Capability Assessment Tool

project and the Assessment for Graduate Teaching. Professor Clinton has taught several post-graduate subjects in the disciplines of Evaluation and Education, and she also supervises a number of PhD students.

## **Professor John Firth**

Professor John Firth is a Vice Chancellor's Strategic Fellow at Victoria University.

Prior to joining Victoria University, Professor Firth led the Victorian Government senior secondary pathways review, 'Review into vocational and applied learning pathways in senior secondary schooling' (the Firth Review) (2019–2020). Subsequent to this, he was strategic advisor to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) on the implementation of the review recommendations, and the development of a new Consideration of Disadvantage process to address disruptions to study caused by COVID-19.

Between 2005 and 2017, Professor Firth was the Chief Executive Officer of the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA), with responsibilities for development and implementation of the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and the Victorian Early Years Learning and Development Framework (VEYLD); development and growth of the Victorian senior secondary certificates VCE and VCAL, including VET as an integral component of both; and the introduction and administration of NAPLAN in Victoria.

Professor Firth was a Foundation Board member of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), with responsibilities for the design and implementation of the first Australian Curriculum, the introduction of NAPLAN and its later transition to online delivery, and the MySchool website and associated national schooling materials. In 2018, he also led the review of disability provisions in the Higher School Certificate (HSC) for the New South Wales Education Standards Authority (NESA).

## **Ms Valerie Gould**

Ms Valerie Gould became the Executive Director of the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia in July 2008 and held that position until October 2022. She has worked for many years in the Western Australian education system with her first four years teaching Economics and Mathematics. The following seven years were spent working in New York with Ernst and Whinney (now EY), and being greatly involved in the introduction of microcomputer applications into business. She returned to Western Australia in 1986 as Director of IT at St Mary's Anglican Girls' School for seven years.

During the early 1990s, Ms Gould worked with the School Curriculum and Standards Authority, Western Australia, (at that time called the Secondary Education Authority and later the Curriculum Council) for four and a half years before joining AISWA as the Manager of Curriculum and Australian Government Targeted Programs. She has been with AISWA for more than 20 years and has worked closely with schools and other stakeholders in the areas of curriculum change, Senior Secondary Education; school funding and in meeting government regulations from a national and state perspective. Ms Gould has a Bachelor of Economics and a Diploma of Education from the University of Western Australia. She is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, the Australian Council for Educational Leadership and the Australian Institute of Management. In 2018, Ms Gould received the Australian College of Educators Western Australia Branch College Medal.

Ms Gould served on the ACARA Board from 2015 and in 2020 and in 2017 was appointed to the Review of Educational Excellence for Australian Schools chaired by David Gonski.

## **Professor Lee Anne Perry AM**

Professor Lee Anne Perry AM is the inaugural Professor of Practice (Educational Leadership and Partnerships) at Queensland University of Technology. Prior to this appointment in 2023, Professor Perry was the Executive Director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission.

Professor Perry has had a longstanding involvement in school education as a teacher, school and system leader including over twenty-five years as a principal.

Professor Perry has held executive roles on numerous professional bodies and served on a range of boards, committees and advisory groups concerned with schools and higher education. She was a member of the Review to Achieve Educational Excellence (the Gonski Review), a member of the STEM-Industry Partnerships Forum (Chaired by Chief Scientist, Professor Alan Finkel), a Member of the Queensland Premier's Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce, the Queensland Government Senior Assessment and Tertiary Entrance Taskforce, and the Ministerial Skills Roundtable. She has served on many Boards including Deputy Chancellor of the Queensland University of Technology Council, Deputy Chair of the

National Catholic Education Commission, and member of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority Board and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board.

Currently, Professor Perry is a Board Member of the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), TAFE Queensland and Mercy Partners Ltd.

## **Professor Andrew Whitehouse**

Professor Andrew Whitehouse is the Angela Wright Bennett Professor of Autism Research and the Director of CliniKids at the Telethon Kids Institute. He is also Professor of Autism Research at The University of Western Australia, and Research Strategy Director of the Cooperative Research Centre for Living with Autism (Autism CRC). At the Telethon Kids Institute, Professor Whitehouse leads a network of centres (CliniKids) for children with neurodevelopmental differences that embeds clinical trials within everyday community practice.

Professor Whitehouse's research has focused on how the health, disability and education systems can be coordinated to better support the needs of neurodivergent children. He chaired the committee that generated Australia's first national guideline for autism diagnosis, and co-chaired the committee that developed Australia's first national guideline for early therapies and supports for autistic children. These Guidelines have been adopted across Australia, and inform how the education sector provides evidence-based support to autistic children.

Professor Whitehouse has been awarded a Eureka Prize for his research, is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences, and in 2023, he was a Western Australian of the Year award winner.