

# Engagement Australia Awards 2024

## Biographies of Judges



### **Professor Jessica Vanderlelie (Chair)**

**Current Position:** Board of Director, Engagement Australia and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic at La Trobe University

Professor Vanderlelie is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic at La Trobe University leading the university to develop and implement a sustainable, and integrated strategies to deliver an outstanding student experience, transform equity outcomes and deliver excellence in learning and teaching. Jessica is co-chair of Universities Australia Women and is a passionate advocate for improving institutional and sector wide approaches to supporting diversity and inclusion. Jessica has demonstrated sustained leadership in learning and teaching in Australian Higher Education, she is an Australian Learning and Teaching Fellow and has been recognised nationally through receipt of an Australian Award for University Teaching and AFR Award.



### **Associate Professor Brahm Marjadi**

**Current Position:** Associate Dean for Engagement and Associate Professor of Community Engaged Learning at the Western Sydney University School of Medicine

Brahm Marjadi is the Associate Dean for Engagement and Associate Professor of Community Engaged Learning at the Western Sydney University School of Medicine. With a strong commitment to grassroot community engagement and service since he was a medical student in Indonesia over 30 years ago, Brahm has seen community engagement from multiple lenses. Brahm is a strong believer in mutually beneficial community partnerships and in finding partnership opportunities even in the most unlikely places. Over the past 11 years Brahm has shifted placement-focused community partnerships at his institution to a full range of university-community engagement formats along Boyer's four scholarships, resulting in his leadership of both scholarship of teaching and learning and scholarship of engagement at his university. Under his leadership, Western Sydney University School of Medicine has become a champion of community engaged medical education and is featured as an exemplar in this sector by the Australian Medical Council.



### **Anthony Dursi**

**Current Position:** Executive Director External Relations, James Martin Institute

Anthony Dursi is Executive Director for External Affairs at the James Martin Institute for Public Policy, a joint-venture between government and universities to transform public policy. Before joining JMI, Anthony worked at the United Nations in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and as Head of Communications at United Nations University – Centre for Policy Research in New York. His career has spanned the public and private sectors, professional groups and industry associations, and civil society.



### **Professor Olivia Mirza**

**Current Position:** Associate Dean, Engagement, Western Sydney University

Professor Olivia Mirza, a Golden Jubilee Scholarship holder at UNSW, graduated with Honours in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2002. She worked as a structural engineer for 10 years before pursuing her PhD. A Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Australia, she has 14 years of academic experience and holds leadership roles such as University Research Theme Champion and School Associate Dean-Engagement. Professor Mirza has led significant projects, including the diagrid-supported One Shelley Street and the fire design for New York's World Trade Center Tower 5. She advocates for women in engineering, founding "Women of Wisdom" at Western Sydney University, increasing female participation from 17% to 35% (2020-2023), and boosting Indigenous student participation through the Aspire Program. Recognized for her contributions, she has received the Engineers Australia Excellence Award, Engineer of the Year Award, Western Sydney Executive Women in STEM Award, and UNSW Judy Raper Leadership Award.



### **Angela Barney-Leitch**

**Current Position:** Deputy Vice Chancellor (Indigenous Australians), QUT

Ms Barney-Leitch is a Woppaburra woman with over 30 years of experience working in and with State and Federal Governments, the tertiary sector, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based organisations. For over 20 years she worked within and led Queensland government policy and strategy units. Prior to joining QUT in 2019, Ms Barney-Leitch was the Director of Indigenous Policy and Strategic Innovation for the Queensland Department of Education. Ms Barney-Leitch is also a Land Trustee and Native Title Holder for the Woppaburra Nation.



### **Maree Graham**

**Current Position:** Director Indigenous Students and Community Engagement, University of Technology Sydney



### **Professor Sarah Todd**

**Current Position:** Vice President (Global), Griffith University

Professor Sarah Todd commenced at Griffith in 2013, having previously been with the University of Otago in New Zealand, and leads Griffith's internationalisation activities. In addition to her role at Griffith, Sarah has been involved with a number of boards and associations related to international education in New Zealand, Australia and globally. Current board appointments include APAIE (Asia Pacific Association for International Education, of which she is immediate past president), IEAA (International Education Association of Australia), the global advisory boards for MSM and the UAE University's College of Business & Economics, as well as Studyportals' Asia Pacific advisory board. Professor Todd was recently appointed to the inaugural global ICEF Adjudication Board. She is also a member of Universities Australia's and the Innovative Research Universities' International Committees, both of which she is former chair



### **Eleanor Mitchell**

**Current Position:** International Director, Charles Sturt University

Eleanor has spent over fifteen years in the international higher education sector, working for U.S. and Australian institutions, as well as private providers spanning multiple Pacific countries. Her experience spans senior leadership roles across all aspects of international student recruitment and marketing, admissions and compliance, partnerships and mobility, notably with prime responsibility for business development to establish new opportunities. At Charles Sturt University, Eleanor leads all functional teams, resources and infrastructure within the Office of Global Engagement. She coordinates operational implementation of Charles Sturt's International Strategy to deliver enrolment growth, partnership expansion and excellence in international student support across the University's regional campuses in New South Wales, Australia and its third-party arrangements and transnational education. Eleanor holds a Bachelor in Arts (Journalism & Mass Communication) from the University of Georgia (U.S.A.) and a Master of Business Administration (Leadership) from Central Queensland University (Australia).



### **Brian Stout**

**Current Position:** Pro Vice-Chancellor Learning and Teaching, Western Sydney University

Professor Brian Stout is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Learning and Teaching. He has a long history of research, teaching and practice in youth justice, probation and social work in Australia, Europe and South Africa. His most recent book is 'Community Justice in Australia' (Routledge, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2023) and he has carried out research in Australia into interventions with children and young people facilitated by Juvenile Justice, FACS and other agencies. Professor Stout has been involved in developing and delivering training and education for criminal justice professionals in the UK and South Africa and participated in many European criminal justice social work projects. His previous research has included child justice diversion in South Africa and sex offender public disclosure schemes in the UK. Professor Stout is an experienced academic leader, previously holding the roles of Dean and Deputy Dean, School of Social Sciences, and Campus Provost, Liverpool. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.



### **Professor Marie Wilson**

**Current Position:** Former Chief Academic Services Officer, University of South Australia

Professor Marie Wilson has a distinguished leadership record in business and higher education. She is the former Chief Academic Services Officer for the University of South Australia (2020-2022), with executive responsibility for student services, academic administration, student equity and engagement, and UniSA International. In her former role (2013-2020) as PVC of Business and Law, she led the Business School to top level accreditations, international awards for innovation, impact and student services, and commendations for an enterprising research culture. Prior leadership roles at Griffith University and The University of Auckland involved organizational transformation in large infrastructure projects, reform of postgraduate education and development of research performance.

Marie has studied and worked in eleven countries across four continents and has been a senior manager in strategy and HRM for seven public companies, including one of the world's largest IT firms. Professor Wilson is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and a State Advisory Council member (SA/NT) of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA).



### **Christian Burden**

**Current Position:** Executive Director Advancement, Western Sydney University

Christian Burden is a strategic leader with extensive experience in philanthropy, alumni engagement, partnerships, and higher education. Currently serving as the Executive Director of Advancement at Western Sydney University, he leads efforts to enhance the University's fundraising capabilities and foster strategic partnerships. Christian has a proven track record in leading successful fundraising campaigns, having previously led major initiatives at the University of Plymouth (UK) and the University of Birmingham (UK). His diverse background includes leadership roles in sport, medical services, and not-for-profit organisations. Passionate about social impact and community connectivity, Christian is dedicated to transforming lives through strategic partnerships and philanthropy. He holds a Bachelor of Education from the University of Wollongong and has been recognised with numerous awards for his contributions to philanthropy and leadership.



### **Ramya Shami**

**Current Position:** Director of Alumni Relations, Bond University

Ramya is an experienced leader in brand marketing, CX, communications and alumni and stakeholder engagement with 18 years experience working in Higher Education sector and very diverse interest groups globally. Ramya's track record in initiating successful partnerships connecting research, talent, capital with organisations to satisfy growing business needs is remarkable. Ramya has an impeccable record in customer journey mapping and program design with high impact on customer acquisition and success.

Ramya thrives on major organisational transformations, complex stakeholder and relationship management, large scale projects and in the challenge of securing partnerships for strategic initiatives supporting brand, knowledge and highbrow market aspirations.





### **Professor Margaret Jones**

**Current Position:** Director of Research Services at Edith Cowan University

Margaret has been the Director of Research Services at Edith Cowan University for almost 10 years.

Margaret earned her PhD in Molecular Biology at the University of Massachusetts and has worked at Monash University, Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research, The University of Western Australia and in the Middle East. An internationally successful medical researcher, she published more than 70 journal articles before transitioning into research administration and governance. She is a graduate of the AICD's Company Directors and University Governance courses and has served on ECU's University Council for three years, as well as on a number of Boards and state and national committees. Her passion for research leadership drives her to deliver best practice across portfolios that include Research Governance, Administration, Systems, Graduate Research Students and importantly, Research Engagement and Impact.



### **Hasret Mehmedali**

**Current Position:** Manager Community-Engaged Learning, Australian Catholic University

Hasret's expertise in community engagement are drawn from a varied and diverse background spanning early years education, and community engagement roles. She has led two distinctly different Community Hubs across Western Sydney using authentic, asset based and focused strategies to both amplify and empower newly arrived communities to thrive in their new environments. Through various project management roles, Hasret has worked with various organisations, communities, and government agencies to support and engage communities to achieve the most sustainable and impactful results for those with complex intersectional lived experiences. As the Manager of Community-engaged Research at ACU, Hasret brings knowledge and experience in impactful research that makes substantial differences to communities in Australia and beyond.



### **Professor Dawn Freshwater**

**Current Position:** Vice Chancellor, University of Auckland

Professor Freshwater is a globally recognised leader, having worked in world-class universities for almost two decades. She became the University of Auckland's first female Vice-Chancellor in March 2020, after serving at the University of Western Australia as Vice-Chancellor and Chair of the Go8 in Australia. She is Vice-Chair for Asia Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Steering Committee, and Presidential Champion for the Asia Pacific Women in Leadership (APWiL), Deputy Chair of Research Australia, Chair of Universities New Zealand Research Committee, and recent Chair of World University Network (WUN). Dawn has been elected to the Academia Europaea (MAE), is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland (FRCSI) and Fellow of the Royal College of Nursing (FRCN). She was listed in the top 2% of researchers in Stanford-Elsevier List 2023 in Public Health, Clinical Psychology and Nursing.



### **Libby Hackett**

**Current Position:** CEO of the James Martin Institute for Public Policy

Libby Hackett is the inaugural CEO of the James Martin Institute for Public Policy, a ground-breaking government-university partnership that is transforming how policymakers and research experts work together. Libby is an award-winning public policy expert, with over 20 years' experience of bringing government and universities together to solve complex problems. She first served as a CEO in 2009 and has held senior leadership and advisory roles in government, parliament, university peak bodies, think tanks and private sector consultancy in Australia and the UK. Libby read PPE at Oxford and is a visiting fellow in higher education policy and funding at the Crawford School of Public Policy at ANU.



### **Chris Robinson**

**Current Position:** Managing Director, Nadris Advisory Pty Ltd

Chris Robinson has an extensive background in sustainability, stakeholder engagement, and corporate consulting. After 11 years at the global engineering and advisory firm GHD, where he established the Sustainability service line, and serving as General Manager at Lend Lease's The Hornery Institute, Chris co-founded Capire Consulting Group. During his 16 years at Capire, Chris served as Co-Founder, Chair, Director, and principal consultant, helping the company grow into a \$3-4 million business. Capire became Australia's largest independent Stakeholder Engagement advisory practice and an internationally awarded B-Corporation.

Currently, Chris is the Founder and Managing Director of Nadris Advisory. With over 30 years of personal experience in property, infrastructure, natural resources, corporate reform, and First Nations engagement, he consults throughout the ASEAN region and serves as the lead engagement adviser and strategist. Chris is based in Australia.



### **Dr Megan Fisher**

**Current Position:** Pro Vice Chancellor (Industry Engagement), La Trobe University

Dr Fisher is the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Industry Engagement) at La Trobe University. Megan has over 25 years' experience in executive management and leadership positions in higher education and research-based organisations in the public and private sector. Megan has a proven track record developing and implementing strategies to drive growth and impact outcomes at enterprise level. She has broad commercial experience and achievements in business development and commercialisation across diverse markets sectors with a range of market players including SMEs, global multinationals, and venture capital organisations. Prior to her role at La Trobe, Megan was Director of Research, Innovation and Commercial Engagement at the University of Melbourne. Megan has held a range of commercial leadership roles at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) across health, digital, agrifood and manufacturing business units. Dr Fisher was a member of the executive team for an ASX and NASDAQ listed Australian biotechnology company holding leadership roles in Research & Development and Sales & Marketing. Dr Fisher has a PhD in Organic Chemistry and a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) from the

University of Sydney, as well as an MBA from QUT and executive education in organisational growth and innovation from Kellog School of Management, USA.