

Mr Kurt Fearnley AO

Mr Kurt Fearnley AO is an experienced government and non-government director and five-time Australian Paralympian.

He is a current Board Commissioner of the Australian Sports Commission and Board Director of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Organising Committee.

He is a former member of the boards of several organisations including Paralympics Australia, Life Without Barriers, Australian Volunteers International and the Newcastle Permanent Charitable Foundation.

He was a member of the inaugural NDIS Independent Advisory Council, Vice Chairperson of the International Paralympic Committee Athletes' Council, carried out a number of roles for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee, and was Co-Captain of the Australian Paralympic Team at the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

Mr Fearnley was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in the General Division in 2018 for his distinguished service to people with a disability, as a supporter of, and fundraiser for, indigenous athletics and charitable organisations, and as a Paralympic Athlete.

He was the 2019 NSW Australian of the Year and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Griffith University for his contribution to sport and disability advocacy.

He is a high-school teacher, television presenter, podcaster and broadcaster, and former professional wheelchair athlete.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Human Movement, Charles Sturt University.

Member: Sustainability Committee and Strategic Direction and Participant Outcomes Committee.

Dr Graeme Innes AM

Dr Graeme Innes AM is a lawyer, author, and company director who was Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner for 9 years.

Dr Innes has been a human rights practitioner for more than 30 years and has been responsible for issues relating to disability, race and human rights.

Dr Innes was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his work on the development of the Disability Discrimination Act, was a finalist for Australian of the Year. On the international stage, he was a member of the Australian delegation that participated in negotiating the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Dr Innes led the merger of 4 blindness agencies to form Vision Australia and chaired the board of that agency. He is Chancellor of Central Queensland University and a Director of the State Insurance Regulatory Authority, regulating workers' compensation and motor vehicle accident insurance in NSW. His autobiography 'Finding A Way' achieved popular acclaim in 2016.

Chair: Audit and Risk Committee.

Ms Maryanne Diamond AO

Ms Maryanne Diamond has lived with disability all her life. She is a NDIS participant and was employed as a senior executive at the NDIA for 5 years.

Ms Diamond has been employed in the information technology industry, the disability sector, and in government. She has extensive experience leading organisations in Australia, including being Executive Officer of Blind Citizens Australia, and inaugural CEO of the Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO). At the international level, Ms Diamond was President of the World Blind Union from 2008-2012, and Chair of The International Disability Alliance from 2014-2016.

In 2014, Ms Diamond was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her distinguished service to people who are blind or have low vision, and her international leadership roles and advocacy for best practice employment opportunities.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Science, Monash University; Graduate Diploma Information Technology, Caulfield Institute of Technology; and GAICD.

Deputy Chair: Audit and Risk Committee.

Member: Sustainability Committee

Dr Denis Naphine AO

Dr Denis Naphine has held various senior positions in government and was the 47th Premier of Victoria.

As the Premier, Denis led the government to sign the NDIS Agreement with the then Prime Minister Julia Gillard. He has a long history of active involvement in local and regional services for people with disabilities and their families and carers.

In 2020, Dr Napthine was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to the people and Parliament of Victoria, particularly as Premier, to veterinary science, and to the community. Previously, he was the Victorian State Minister for Community Services which included Disability Services.

Qualifications: BVSc and MVS (Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine) from University of Melbourne and MBA from Deakin University.

Member: Audit and Risk Committee.

Ms Estelle Pearson

Ms Estelle Pearson has extensive experience in the insurance and injury compensation sector having worked as an actuary and consultant in this sector since 1989. She is currently a Director of Finity Consulting Pty Limited, and was previously on the Council of the Actuaries Institute, including a term as President in 2015.

Qualifications: BA (Hons) Mathematics, University of Oxford and FIAA.

Chair: Sustainability Committee.

Ms Leah van Poppel

Ms Leah van Poppel is Chair of the Victorian NDIS Community Advisory and a member of the NDIS Independent Advisory Council (IAC).

A highly-respected leader and disability rights advocate, Ms van Poppel was CEO of Women with Disabilities Victoria from 2018-2021.

In this position, she worked to empower marginalised women in the community through education and mentoring, as well as research, policy advice and government advocacy.

Previously, Ms van Poppel was CEO of Blind Citizens Australia, Manager at Youth Disability Advocacy Service and NDIS Readiness Project Officer at Australian Federation of Disability Organisations (AFDO).

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts, Macquarie University.

Member: Sustainability Committee and Strategic Direction and Participant Outcomes Committee.

Mrs Joan McKenna Kerr

Joan McKenna Kerr is an experienced Chief Executive Officer in the field of disability with significant experiences as a Board Director.

She was a member of the Expert Advisory Group reporting to the Select Council of Treasurers and Ministers (COAG) on the development and establishment of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

She was a member of the Inaugural NDIS Independent Advisory Council and Co-Chair of the NDIS Working Party on Eligibility and Assessment.

Her past involvements also include Chairing and serving on numerous Working Parties throughout her career tasked with disability sector reform and sustainability.

She is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin from where she gained a Moderatorship in Sociology.

She is also a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Joan is a former President of National Disability Services (NDS) and the former National Chair of the Australian Advisory Board on Autism.

She has also been involved for the last decade in the Sister-State initiative between the West Australian Government and East Java, Indonesia, assisting in the development of disability services in 5 regional government-areas of East Java.

In 2017 she was awarded the Asia Pacific Autism Award for a lifetime of service to people with Autism and their families.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts, Moderatorship in Sociology, Trinity College, Dublin.

Member: Strategic Direction and Participant Outcomes Committee.

Dr. Richard Fejo

Dr. Richard Fejo, better known as Richie, is a Larrakia man of direct male descent, through his father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Richie has devoted his life to improving education and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within urban, rural and remote communities.

Richie previously sat on the City of Darwin's International Relations Committee and has recently become a committee member of the Northern Territory branch of the Australian Institute of company directors.

In 2022, Richie was awarded an honorary doctorate by Flinders University in recognition of his contribution to education and Indigenous health, where he is also the Senior Elder on campus.

In addition to his service to the community, Richie is a talented comedian and singer-songwriter, performing regularly around town, and nurturing the next generation of comics.

Member: Strategic Direction and Participant Outcomes Committee.

Mr Mark Darras

Mr Darras was appointed a Director of the NDIA Board in November 2023. At present, Mark is also Acting Chairman and a Commissioner of the Essential Services Commission of South Australia.

Mark is a former corporate lawyer and adviser (Ashurst Lawyers), and an experienced Company Director, having served as a Director, and in leadership roles on Boards including Australia Post and Australia Post Superannuation, Southern Rural Water Board, John Holland Engineering and John Holland Queensland, and the South Australian Forestry Corporation. Mark was formerly the Chairman of the Commonwealth Government's \$7 billion Telecommunications Universal Services Management Agency, and has served as a Member of the Australian Takeovers Panel.

Prior to his appointment to the NDIA, Mark was the Independent Chair of the NSW Government's Advisory Board for Strategic Release. As a lawyer, Mark specialised in corporate advisory, M&A and takeovers, and commenced his working life, working in a trade union as an Industrial Officer.

Mark is from South Australia's Riverland area and was schooled in Renmark.

Qualifications: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (University of Tasmania), Master of Laws (Australian National University), and Bachelor of Education (University of South Australia).

Member: NDIA Board, and Audit and Risk Committee.

Dr Ian Watt AC

Dr Ian J Watt AC has had a long career as one of Australia's most distinguished public servants, with nearly 20 years at the highest levels of the public service. His most recent and most senior appointment was as Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and head of the Australian Public Service, a position he held from late 2011 until the end of 2014.

Prior to that, he was Secretary of the Departments of Defence; Finance; and Communications, Information Technology, and the Arts between 2001 and 2011. Before that, he was Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Dr Watt is currently Chair of the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships and Chair of the ADC Advisory Council. He is also the former Chair of BAE Systems Australia, former Chair of the Australian Governance and Ethical Index Fund Advisory Board, and former Chair of the Smart Infrastructure Facility at the University of Wollongong. He currently serves on the Boards of the National Disability Insurance Agency, Smartgroup Corporation Ltd and O'Connell Street Associates Pty Ltd. Dr Watt is also a Member of the Melbourne School of Government Advisory Board at the University of Melbourne, a Fellow of ANZSOG and IPAA, and Senior Adviser to Flagstaff Partners.

Dr Watt is a former Director of Citibank Pty Ltd and the Committee for Economic Development of Australia. He recently retired from the Board of the Grattan Institute and as Chair of the Grattan Public Policy Committee after a decade of service.

Dr Watt completed an Independent Review of the Tasmanian State Service in July 2021, the first in several decades. He recently completed reviews of the Western Australian University System, Services Australia and the NDIA's Procurement Practices and Policies, and the Department of Home Affairs Capability.

Dr Watt was appointed as a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2016. Dr Watt also holds Honorary Doctorates of Letters from the University of Technology Sydney and from the University of Wollongong.

Member: Audit and Risk Committee.

Dr Rhonda Galbally AC

This page current as of

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