

From Attitudes to Action – Workplace Equality and Respect Forum

Speaker bios

Tracey Spicer AM, MC

Tracey Spicer AM is a multiple Walkley Award winning author, journalist and broadcaster who has anchored national programs for ABC TV and radio, Network Ten and Sky News.

The national co-founder of Women in Media and NOW Australia, Tracey is one of the most sought-after keynote speakers and emcees in the region. In 2019 she was named the NSW Premier's Woman of the Year, and in 2018 chosen as one of the Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence, winning the Social Enterprise and Not-For-Profit category. She was also named Agenda Setter of the Year by the website Women's Agenda. For her 30 years of media and charity work, Tracey has been awarded the Order of Australia.



Highlights of her outstanding career include writing, producing and presenting documentaries on women and girls in Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda, Papua New Guinea and India. She is an Ambassador for ActionAid, World Vision, Cancer Council NSW, Domestic Violence NSW, QUT's Learning Potential Fund and SISTER2sister, and Patron of the Pancreatic Cancer Alliance.

Her first book, *The Good Girl Stripped Bare*, became a bestseller within weeks of publication, while her TEDx Talk, *The Lady Stripped Bare*, has attracted more than five million views worldwide. Tracey's essays have appeared in dozens of books including *Women of Letters*, *She's Having a Laugh*, *Father Figures*, *Unbreakable*, and *Bewitched & Bedevilled: Women Write the Gillard Years*.

She is currently working on a documentary about the #metoo movement, which she spearheaded in Australia through tireless investigative journalism. But her greatest joy is spending time with her husband Jason, and children Taj and Grace.

The Hon. Gabrielle Williams, Minister for Women, Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Youth (Victoria)

Gabrielle Williams was elected to represent the district of Dandenong in the Victorian Parliament in November 2014. In December 2014, Gabrielle was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for Carers and Volunteers. Gabrielle was the Parliamentary Secretary for Industry and Employment before being appointed the Parliamentary Secretary for Health in 2016 (while retaining the Carers & Volunteers portfolio). Since December 2018, Gabrielle has served as Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Minister for Women and the Minister for Youth Affairs.

Before entering Parliament, Gabrielle completed a Bachelor of Laws and Arts (Hons) at Monash University, going on to practise as a solicitor in a large Melbourne law firm. She has also worked as an adviser in both state and federal governments, and served as a director of a not-for-profit disability sport organisation. Immediately prior to being elected, Gabrielle worked as a project manager to the Vice Chancellor at the University of Melbourne.



Gabrielle is married with two cheeky rescue pups and loves sport, including soccer, baseball, Gaelic football and AFL. In her spare time, she likes to paint, read and explore the wonderful array of cuisines on offer in the multicultural Dandenong community.

Kate Jenkins, Sex Discrimination Commissioner

Kate Jenkins is Australia’s Sex Discrimination Commissioner and a member of the Australian Human Rights Commission. Her purpose is to advance gender equality, consistent with the Sex Discrimination Act and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.



Kate is leading a number of projects including the National Inquiry into sexual harassment in Australian workplaces and the Commission’s collaborative project on cultural reform with the Australian Defence Force. Kate is also the convener of the National Male Champions of Change group (established 2015), and the Co-Chair of Play by the Rules, a joint project between human rights agencies and sports commissions to make grass roots sports safe, fair and inclusive.

Prior to joining the Commission, Kate spent three years as the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, 20 years as lead equal opportunity partner with Herbert Smith Freehills’ and many years serving on the boards of Berry Street Victoria, Heide Museum of Modern Art and Carlton Football Club.

Patty Kinnersly, Our Watch

Patty Kinnersly is Chief Executive Officer of Our Watch, a not-for-profit organisation established to drive nationwide change in the structures, norms and practices that can lead to violence against women and their children.



Patty has extensive experience in women’s health, community services, education, and governance. She was Chief Executive Officer of Women’s Health Grampians for nine years, before joining Our Watch in 2015 as Director, Practice Leadership.

Patty is a member of several sector taskforces, including the Ministerial Taskforce on the Prevention of Family Violence and other forms of Violence Against Women.

She previously held Board positions at Ballarat Health Services, the Australian Women’s Health Network National Board, Rural Northwest Health, and Child and Family Services Ballarat.

Patty is a member of the Carlton Football Club Board of Directors, the first to manage its women’s football programs.

She played in the Victorian Women’s Football League for 14 years, including in five premierships, and represented Victoria on 10 occasions, twice as captain.

Patty lives in regional Victoria.

Cara Gleeson, Our Watch

Cara is the Director of Practice Leadership at Our Watch, the national foundation to prevent violence against women and their children. She oversees workforce and sector development; practitioners support and resources development; the national respectful relationships education portfolio; the sports engagement program (including working with AFL, FFA ARU and NRL national codes); and the workplace equality and respect standards program. Cara brings to this role over a decade of leadership in research and policy on preventing violence against women, gender equality, women's rights, peace and security in Australia and internationally. Cara has previously worked at VicHealth in their prevention of violence against women program, in the Australian Government Office for Women and at Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Geneva. She has held several governance roles and currently sits on the board for YWCA Australia.



Violeta Marticorena Politoff, ANROWS

Violeta is a senior research officer at Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS). Violeta works specifically on the 2017 National Community Attitudes towards Violence against Women Survey (NCAS), and was involved in the 2013 NCAS when it was led by VicHealth. She has worked on media related projects at Domestic Violence Victoria, and the University of Melbourne where she and Professor Jenny Morgan researched how media covers the issue of violence against women. Previously Violeta worked as a researcher and coordinator of the AuSud Media Project, a journalism training program for Sudanese Australians run by the University of Melbourne with the ABC and AMES. She has also written extensively on media and violence against women in the public arena. Violeta has a Master's degree in Media and Communications from the University of Melbourne.



Justine Vaisutis, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (Victoria)

Justine is the Head of Education and Engagement at the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) and has more than 15 years' experience driving organisational change and is passionate about cultivating safer and more equitable and productive workplaces. She has led initiatives in organisations across the public, private and community sectors to advance diversity, inclusion and equality, and to promote and enforce ethical behaviour.



In recent years, Justine's experience has included leadership on complex workplace reviews, resulting in the development and implementation of improved policy structures, tailored business strategies, and behaviour change initiatives. In her current role at the VEOHRC, Justine has embedded monitoring and evaluation, human centred design and digital innovation in the work of the Education and Engagement Branch, resulting in the development of more creative and sustainable tools and solutions to the wicked problems of discrimination and sexual harassment.

Prior to her work in organisational change, Justine spent 10 years as a journalist, writing predominantly about human rights, and travel. She spent considerable time engaging with marginalised communities in Africa, southeast Asia and the Pacific and promoting their stories to raise awareness and advocate for their improved access to human rights.

Dr Lyn Roberts AO, VicHealth

Dr Roberts has extensive executive experience of working within health NGOs having spent over 25 years providing strategic leadership nationally and globally. Currently the Acting CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth). Prior she was Principal Adviser for VicHealth. She has considerable expertise in strategic public health policy development and implementation, working with a wide range of stakeholders.

Lyn has been a member of numerous expert advisory committees for the government and NGO sectors and has held numerous Board roles including with the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (2009-2018). She is a Council Member with Deakin University, and was a member of the Victorian Government Justice Health Ministerial Advisory Committee (2017-2018).



Dr Adele Murdolo, Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health

Adele is the Executive Director at the Multicultural Centre for Women’s Health. She is from an Italian migrant background and has led the Centre as its Executive Director for 17 years. She has a PhD in History and Women’s Studies, and her research and publication areas include women’s health, violence against women and feminist history and activism in Australia. Adele is a passionate speaker and advocate for building the status of immigrant and refugee women through research, practice and policy. As Executive Director, she provides strong leadership, expert advice and input into policy.



Dr Bridie O’Donnell, Office for Women in Sport and Recreation

Dr O’Donnell is the Director of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation. She graduated as Valedictorian from the University of Queensland Medical School and won the J R S Lahz Prize for Most Outstanding Intern in Brisbane in 1999. During her residency she was a rower and then an Ironman triathlete, and finished the Ironman Hawaii World Championships in 2006.

In 2007, she began road cycling and in 2008 after winning the National Time Trial title, she raced in the Australian National Team, and then Professional teams in Europe and the United States, representing Australia at three World Championships.

Dr O’Donnell returned to full time work in 2013 as a behaviour change physician at Epworth HealthCheck and Epworth Breast Service, with a part time role teaching doctor-patient communication at Deakin University Medical School.

From 2013-2016, Bridie also managed and raced for Rush Women’s Team, a National Road Series cycling team in Australia. In 2016, she became the first Australian woman to make an attempt on the UCI World Hour record in 15 years, setting a new world record of 46.882km at the Adelaide Superdrome.

In November, 2017, Bridie was appointed the Director of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation by the Victorian Government and in May, 2018 she published ‘Life and Death – a cycling memoir’ about her experiences as a professional cyclist in the international peloton.



Dr Corinne Manning, Melbourne Fire Brigade

Dr Manning is an award winning academic and cultural change leader who has supported organisations to undertake significant reform to address issues of equity, inclusion and diversity. As an academic oral historian, Corinne recorded the testimony and co-authored stories with vulnerable and often marginalised people who have experienced significant trauma in their lives. She has published widely in print and digital formats and is an active public intellectual.



For the past eight years, Corinne has delivered and contributed to significant public sector reform in Australia for some of the nation’s leading organisations including the Australian Army, Australian Defence Organisation, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, La Trobe University, Victoria Police and the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Her expertise covers gender equality, violence prevention and trauma-informed support, disability, cultural diversity, mental health, and gender and sexuality. Corinne’s current work, leading the Culture and Transformation Department at the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, is breaking new territory as they deliver a broad reform agenda to build a workplace where people feel safe, valued, are treated fairly and are able to perform to their best.

Cameron McLeod, North Melbourne Football Club

Cameron’s career spans over 20 years with senior leadership and expertise in leveraging sport and active recreation to influence social and economic change across public health, education, community and major international events.



He is the General Manager, Community Engagement and member of the Executive team at the North Melbourne Football Club including leading the growth and impact of The Huddle, an award winning not-for-profit which empowers young people to build on their strengths, increase their ability to participate in society and contribute to more socially inclusive communities.

Cameron is Co-Chair of the North Melbourne Football Club Gender Equality working group to strengthen workplace equality and prevent violence against women. He led the design and integration of the North Melbourne Football Club’s Gender Equality Action Plan, the first in Australian sport, designed to create conditions where power, resources and decision-making are shared equally between men and women.

He is regularly engaged by political, corporate, academic and the not-for-profit sectors to provide strategic advice and help drive systemic change to address complex health, social and economic issues facing traditionally marginalised populations and communities. He is a member of Our Watch’s Sports Engagement Advisory Committee supporting the prevention of violence against women through the influence of sport.

Cameron has a Masters of Business Administration, a Bachelor of Arts and is a Williamson Community Leadership Fellow through Leadership Victoria