



Ms Anne Burgess AM

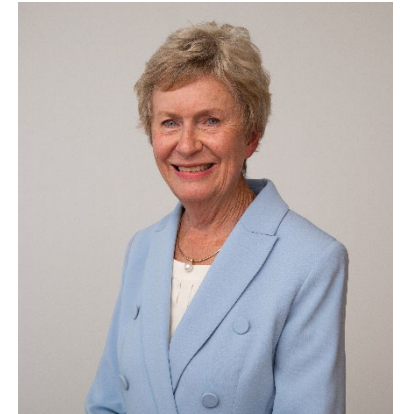
Anne Burgess AM is the Chair of the Council of Elders.

Ms Burgess has more than 40 years' experience leading areas of government focussed on social justice. From previous Director roles at Mental Health and the Office for Women and Acting Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, she has skills in policy development, change management, strategic planning and a particular interest in community engagement.

Anne has been a member of the Council of the Ageing South Australia (SA) Board since November 2013 and is Chair of the SA Policy Council. She brings extensive experience from her career as a senior public sector bureaucrat in SA which culminated in her two-year term as Acting Commissioner for Equal Opportunity from June 2010 to July 2012.

Anne also has experience in the not for profit sector, including as a member of the Board of Aged Rights Advocacy Service and the National Aged Care Alliance.

Anne currently holds a number of Board positions and roles at state and federal levels, including in the non-government sector and undertakes consultancies.

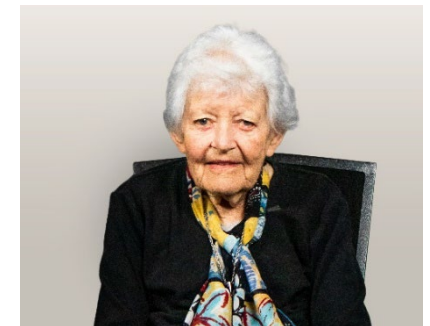


Ms Val Fell, OAM

Ms Fell is in her 90s and describes herself as a “retired mathematics teacher/statistician who worked in many fields including economics, media and advertising”.

In recent years, Val has made a significant contribution as a Dementia Advocate. Her work since 2012 has meant that people in Wollongong living with dementia and/or their carers have improved access to the information and resources they need. In 2020, she was awarded the City of Wollongong Senior Citizen of the Year for her volunteering with Parent and Citizen Associations, Eisteddfod, the Council on The Ageing, and Dementia Australia.

Val is the 8th child in a family with 11 children and is now the eldest of 3 surviving family members. Over the years, she has watched her mother, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister, 2 brothers-in-law, 1 sister-in-law and husband enter residential aged care facilities.

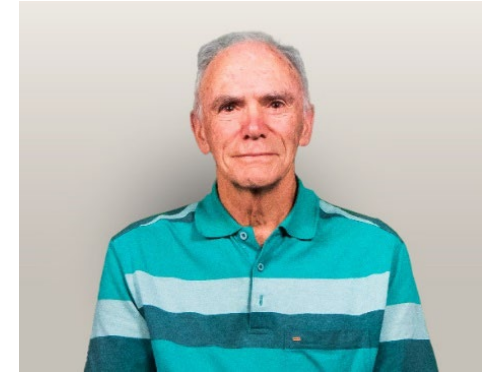


Dr Michael Barbato, OAM

Mr Barbato entered the palliative care field in 1989 following 17 years as a General Physician in rural NSW.

He retired from clinical practice in 2014 and is now engaged in research into the experience of unconsciousness in dying patients. Michael is the author of 3 books: *Caring for the Living and the Dying*; *Reflections of a Setting Sun*; and *Midwifing Death*. Michael and his wife run a correspondence course for members of the community and healthcare workers on the art of midwifing death.

In the 2008 Australia Day Honours, Mr Barbato was awarded a medal in the Order of Australia for his service to medicine in palliative care.



Ms Gwenda Darling

Ms Darling has had a varied career working for almost 50 years in many government departments and non-government organisations. These included Child Protection and children's and adult mental health, (in both NSW and Northern Territory) Corrective Services and Juvenile Justice along with Centrelink and Housing NSW.

Gwenda is a Palawa woman and has proactively served her Aboriginal Communities, in which she has lived and worked, as CEO of Anaiwan Aboriginal Land Council, Chairperson of Gandangarra Local Aboriginal Land Council, Director of Hunter Aboriginal Children's services and various other NGO positions. This experience led her to discover her passion for justice for elders within the aged care system, advocating for many, not only with My Aged Care but also with home care providers.

After being diagnosed with younger onset Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) at 59 and being determined to not allow the diagnosis define her, Gwenda has gone on to participate in dementia research and has been actively involved in rural dementia inclusive communities for those living with dementia and their carers.



Professor Tom Calma, AO

Professor Tom Calma AO is of Kungarakan and Iwaidja heritage from the Darwin region.

He is currently the Chancellor of the University of Canberra, a Professor at the University of Sydney and the National Coordinator for Tackling Indigenous Smoking and has previously served as Race Discrimination Commissioner (2004-2009) and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner (2004-2010). Tom was also a senior diplomat (1995-2002) and senior advisor to the Minister of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

In 2012, Tom was awarded an Order Of Australia in recognition of his advocacy, work in human rights and social justice and distinguished service to the Indigenous community.

In recognition of his important advocacy work in human rights and social justice, Professor Calma was named the 2023 Senior Australian of the Year.



Ms Gillian Groom, AO

Ms Groom has been an occupational therapist for 50 years but has more recently established a career in elder and succession law. She received her law degree from the University of Tasmania, 3 weeks before turning 70.

Gillian has lived and worked in Tasmania for most of her life. She has extensive experience in community engagement through her involvement with a wide range of groups – including those that represent people who are culturally diverse and people living with disability. Gillian has also served on many boards and committees at state and national levels.

As a parent of 6 adult children and 17 young grandchildren, she is particularly passionate about the future of ageing in Australia.



Ms Margaret Walsh, OAM

Ms Walsh is an experienced nurse and manager of organisations providing services to people who live with disability, and aged care organisations. Margaret has been passionately advocating for over 20 years for the disability sector.

Margaret's experience includes being the Community Representative for the WA Older Person Health Network Expert Advisory Group. She is a Board member of Association of Independent Retirees (AIR) and worked with the Royal Perth Hospital and Fiona Stanley Hospital Consumer Advisory committees.

Margaret is committed to the inclusion of lived experience and has demonstrated understanding of the significance of this in her career, particularly in the disability field while managing an Alternatives to Employment organisation which provided services to young adults who have severe disabilities and high support needs.

In 2011, Margaret was awarded a Medal in the Order of Australia for her services to people with a disability.



Mr Bill Jolley

Mr Jolley's extensive contributions to the global blind and low vision community are well recognised. Bill receiving a life membership to the World Blind Union (WBU) at the 2021 World Blindness Summit.

Bill, who is currently Deputy Chair of Vision Australia, has played a significant part in the history of the WBU since its inception in 1984. Bill has spent 13 years as an executive member of the WBU and previously held numerous leadership roles across WBU General Assemblies. Bill has been a vital part of WBU operations across the Asia Pacific region, with particular focus on providing leadership and governance training to member organisations.

Bill was also a founding member of Blind Citizens Australia and served for eight years as treasurer of the International Council on English Braille. He has been on the Vision Australia Board since 2014 and was elected Deputy Chair in 2017. Prior to that he led the integration of Seeing Eye Dogs Australia into Vision Australia in 2008 and served on Vision Australia's then Client Representative Council.



Dr Gill Lewin

Dr Lewin is a health services researcher with extensive and diversified experience in health and aged care research and evaluations and the translation of evidence into policy and practice.

Following a ten-year career as a clinical psychologist, Gill completed a Master of Public Health and then worked in health services research for twenty-five years. Initially conducting consultations as a Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia, she was then employed by Silver Chain – a large national community-based health and aged care provider – to develop research across the organisation.

Gill also held a research professorship at Curtin University where she is still an adjunct professor.

Throughout her career as a health and aged care researcher, Gill has been involved with the Australian Association of Gerontology (AAG) often at both the State and National level. She is currently a Board Director, a member of the AAG's Reconciliation Action Group and of the AAG Research Trust Steering Committee.



Mrs Sue McCann

Mrs McCann brings many years of experience as a Registered Nurse and spent her working life caring for the elderly in aged care services. Sue has completed a post graduate degree in Gerontology at the Australian Catholic University, and a Masters in Aged Care Management at Charles Sturt University.

Sue's extensive aged care experience encompasses the entire spectrum of Aged Care, including her role as Director of Care at Catholic Care of the Aged in Port Macquarie for 20 years.

Sue was responsible for the first dementia specific facility between Newcastle and the Queensland border. Before retiring in January 2021, she was the General Manager at Lutheran Services and managed several aged care facilities and services across South East and Central Queensland including managing the commencement of the pandemic.



Ms Danijela Hlis

Ms Hlis was born in Slovenia in 1949. Danijela first studied agriculture in Svecina before studying linguistics and working as an interpreter/translator in London, Geneva, Rome, Paris and Sydney. She then went on to complete additional studies to become a human resource manager in Sydney and Melbourne until 1991 when she and her then partner established a tourism complex, Bicheno Hideaway, on Tasmania's East coast.

In 1996 Danijela's parents migrated from Slovenia and she became their full-time carer. Danijela's father had a disability and her mother lived with dementia for many years. Danijela studied the illness extensively to enable her mother to live well. Danijela then studied diversional therapies to work in aged care.

She is currently an active member of the OPAN/NOPRG group, FECCA, Dementia Australia Advocate, and a volunteer bicultural social support worker. She presents at conferences and delivers workshops on better quality care for people living with dementia, and how to improve carer support, especially for clients from diverse cultures.

A published writer, her latest book is about dementia (Forget-me-nots).



Dr Kay Patterson, AO

Dr Patterson has been the Age Discrimination Commissioner since July 2016. She has demonstrated a strong interest in issues affecting older people throughout her professional life.

Kay left school at 15 to manage a small business, before returning to school and achieving a Bachelor of Arts with honours at the University of Sydney as well as a PhD in Psychology and Dip Ed at Monash University. She then taught allied health science students for 11 years before studying gerontology at the University of Michigan and Pennsylvania State University.

Following her election to the Senate in 1987 she served on several Senate Committees and held various shadow portfolios. In 1988 she was appointed a Parliamentary Secretary and in 2001 was appointed to Cabinet serving in the Health and Social Security Portfolios. She retired from Cabinet in 2006 and from the Senate in 2008. Kay has served on several not-for-profit boards and she is currently the Director of the Brockhoff Foundation and honorary Fellow at Monash University. Kay was awarded as an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2016.



Professor John McCallum

Professor McCallum has 50 years of experience in research, policy and community activism in ageing and is recognised as a leader in ageing policy and research.

Before retiring in 2022, John has been National Seniors Australia's Research Director since 2017 and CEO since 2018. Under his leadership, National Seniors has established a reputation for relevant, practical research into older Australians' lives and sentiments.

Professor McCallum joined National Seniors as a widely published academic leader in ageing and aged care research. He held teaching and research roles at numerous universities in Australia, USA, Japan, China and Thailand, with senior management roles at Victoria University, the NHMRC Research Translation Group, the NHMRC National Institute for Dementia Research, and the University of Western Sydney, receiving the Campbelltown Council Community Service Award while there. His major projects included the Dubbo Longitudinal Study of Ageing, Australia-Japan Collaboration in Aged Care, Asset and Health Dynamics of the 'Old' Old (AHEAD), and Vietnam Veterans Mortality Study.

He received the Centenary Medal in 2001 'for outstanding service as a researcher to ageing and aged care issues'.



Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr Baumann, AM

Dr Ungunmerr Baumann, 2021 Senior Australian of the year, is a renowned Aboriginal artist and educator who is dedicated to creating bright and fulfilling futures for Aboriginal children and youth. She was the first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher in the Northern Territory and is the founder of the Miriam-Rose Foundation. Miriam-Rose speaks five local languages along with English and is responsible for establishing the highly successful Merrepen Arts centre in Nauiyu. Born in the bush near Daly River, Miriam-Rose is a member of the Ngangiwumirr language group. When she was around five years old, she was placed in the care of her Aunt Nellie and Uncle Attawoomba Joe, a legendary police tracker. In 1975, Miriam-Rose became the Territory's first fully qualified Aboriginal teacher and for many years held the position of Art Consultant with the Professional Services Branch of the Northern Territory Department of Education. Miriam-Rose also saw the need for more Aboriginal teachers to work among non-Aboriginal school children. In 1988, Miriam-Rose was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree by Deakin University and two years later, she began training as a school principal. By 1993 Miriam had gained a Bachelor of Education degree and was appointed to the position of Principal at the St. Francis Xavier School at Daly River. She later went on to gain her Masters of Education Degree, with a high distinction. The focus of work for her Master's degree was the integration of traditional and western education for Aboriginal children and adults.

