



## **Ms Anne Burgess AM**

Anne is the Chair of the Council of Elders.

Anne is passionate about aged care. She is currently Deputy Chair of Council on the Ageing South Australia and Chair of its policy council, Deputy Chair of Older Persons Advocacy Network and Chair of Aged Rights Advocacy Service.

Anne has more than 40 years' experience leading areas of government focused on social justice and a particular interest in community engagement. She brings experience to the role of Chair from her career as a senior public servant in South Australia. This included roles as Director of Office for Women and Director of Mental Health and a two-year term as Acting Commissioner for Equal Opportunity South Australia.

Anne was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to mental health, gender equality and older people In 2021.

Anne wants to ensure that the voices and lived experiences of older people are valued and respected in the planning and delivery of aged care reforms.



### **Professor Tom Calma AO**

Tom is of Kungarakan and Iwaidja heritage from the Darwin region. He has dedicated his life to improving outcomes for First Nations people.

Tom has been involved in Aboriginal affairs at a local, community, state, national and international level, and has worked in the public sector for more than 45 years.

Tom was awarded an Order of Australia in 2012, in recognition of his advocacy work in human rights and social justice and distinguished service to the Aboriginal community. In further recognition of his work in human rights and social justice, Tom was named 2023 Senior Australian of the Year.

Tom is passionate about ensuring First Nations people receive quality and culturally appropriate aged care services.



### **Mr James Carey**

James (Jim) is in his 90s and had a long career as an accountant and general manager.

Jim's passion for aged care advocacy started when he began caring for his wife and navigating the home care system. Jim now lives in an aged care home, and brings lived insight into life in a home to the council.

Jim is a volunteer in the home he lives in and also assists fellow residents with digital connectivity. He wants to ensure older Australians can stay connected to their loved ones and are able to engage in the digital world.

Jim wants all older people to have their say as aged care is reformed.



### **Aunty Lyn Cullinane**

Aunty Lyn is a Mununjali woman with cultural ties to the tribal areas of Beaudesert, Queensland. She has family connections to the area through her great-great grandparents who descended from two large tribes.

Aunty Lyn is passionate about social justice and improving outcomes for disadvantaged groups, including older First Nations people and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Following the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, Lyn worked as one of the first Indigenous counsellors in a correctional facility. She was also a member of a taskforce that focused on family violence in remote Indigenous communities in Queensland.

Lyn's passion is helping mob to understand and access aged care in a culturally safe way.



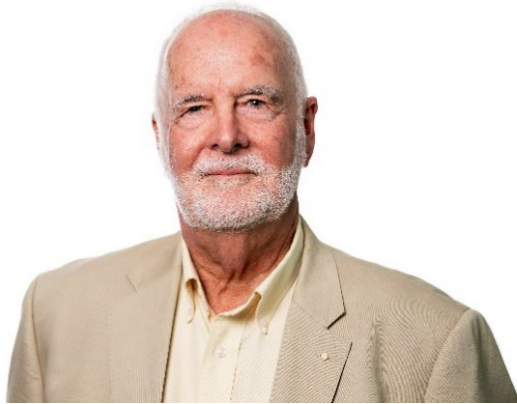
### **Ms Gwenda Darling**

Gwenda is a Palawa woman and has proactively served the Aboriginal communities in which she has lived and worked. Gwenda has been Chief Executive Officer of Anaiwan Aboriginal Land Council, Chairperson of Gandangarra Local Aboriginal Land Council and Director of Hunter Aboriginal Children's Services, among other roles serving First Nations people.

Gwenda has seen firsthand the need for safe, respectful and trauma-informed care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Gwenda advocates for an aged care system that meets the needs of older people and provides choice and control.

Gwenda has personal experience with the aged care system and dementia, having been diagnosed with younger onset behavioural-variant frontotemporal dementia in 2013. She participates in dementia research and is a dementia advocate alongside her other advocacy work in the community.

Gwenda is determined to live the best life she can and not allow her diagnosis to define her. She works to make aged care better for all people.



### **Dr John Davis**

John has worked as a teacher, historian and priest. He holds a Doctor of Theology from the University of Divinity, Melbourne. He is a former Vicar General of the Anglican diocese of Wangaratta.

John has been involved in the Equal Voices Anglican and LGBTIQA+ movement since the survey on marriage equality in 2017 and his subsequent marriage to his husband in 2019.

John aims to serve the community with compassion, integrity and respect, and to foster dialogue, diversity and inclusion, particularly with – and for – LGBTIQA+ people.

John's work has meant he has seen firsthand the impact ageing has on individuals, families and community. John wants all older people to be able to age with support that allows their needs and choices to be honoured.



### **Ms Val Fell OAM**

Val describes herself as a “retired mathematics teacher/statistician who worked in many fields including economics, media and advertising”.

Val has made significant contributions as a dementia advocate since 2012. Her work improves access to information and resources for people in Wollongong living with dementia and their carers.

Val was awarded the City of Wollongong Senior Citizen of the Year award in 2020 for her volunteering work, including with Dementia Australia and Council on the Ageing. She was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to people with dementia in 2022.

Val is the 8th child in a family with 11 children. Over the years she has watched family members and her husband enter aged care homes. Val works tirelessly as an advocate with the Council on the Ageing and the Older Persons Advocacy Network to improve aged care services for all older people.



### **Ms Gillian Groom AO**

Gillian was an occupational therapist for 50 years before establishing 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 First Nations peoples, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people living with disability.

Gillian was appointed as an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the community through healthcare, medical research and social welfare organisations, and to the law, in 2020.

As a parent of 6 adult children and 17 grandchildren, she is particularly focused on the future of ageing in Australia and wants to ensure all people have access to safe and high-quality care.



### **Ms Anna Harrison AM JP**

Anna has dedicated her professional life to advocating for people from Western Australia, particularly older people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those identifying as LGBTIQ+.

Anna is multilingual, which has helped her to connect and engage with older people from diverse communities. She founded the Umbrella Multicultural Community Care organisation, which supports older people from culturally diverse backgrounds to remain in their own homes and to maintain independence as they age.

Anna was appointed as a member of the Order of Australia for significant service to aged care and multiculturalism in WA in 2023. She is a member of the Board of Management for Umbrella. She is also a member of WA Ministerial Multicultural Advisory Council and was on the Positive CALD Ageing Network Ministerial Advisory Committee for Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils Australia.

Anna continues to advocate for a better aged care system for all.



### **Professor John McCallum**

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

John was CEO of National Seniors Australia before retiring in 2023. Under his leadership, National Seniors built a reputation for relevant, practical research into older Australians' lives and sentiments which contributed extensively to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.

John is a widely published academic leader in health and ageing. He held senior leadership, teaching and research roles at Australian universities and internationally.

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



### **Ms Juliet Rankin**

Juliet (Julie) has more than 40 years' experience as an occupational therapist working across urban and remote areas of Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Julie is a current board member of Palliative Care NT and has held positions at Carers NT, the Australian Association of Occupational Therapy and Carers Australia. Julie has worked with clients in acute, community, residential and palliative care settings.

Julie is a member of the Council on the Ageing and is connected to people with disability, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and First Nations peoples.

Julie is passionate about enabling people to live independently in their homes as they age for as long as possible.



### **Ms Margaret Walsh OAM**

Margaret is an experienced former nurse and manager of organisations providing services to people who live with disability and to people receiving aged care services. She has been a strong advocate for the disability sector for over 20 years and, since retirement, the health and aged care sector.

Margaret is a community representative for the Older Person Health Network Expert Advisory Group in Western Australia and a board member of the Australian Independent Retirees.

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

Margaret is committed to inclusion and advocating for the rights of older people.



### **Ms Lyn Whiteway**

Lyn is a full-time carer for a family member who lives with dementia. She is currently residing in a retirement village and is a Home Care Package recipient.

Through her volunteer work with Dementia Australia, ECH (an aged care service provider) and Council on the Ageing, Lyn is closely connected to older people in her community.

She has also been a consumer advocate for more than 20 years in roles in the public and private sectors of the health system.

Lyn's particular interests are frailty and ageing, sepsis detection and treatment and rheumatoid arthritis. She looks for opportunities to contribute to research on these topics wherever she can to improve aged care services for older people.