



# AMBASSADOR PROGRAM 2025



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## Edgar Agius OAM




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### *A Civic leader and a Maltese Community Leader*

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Edgar joined the Maltese Guild of SA in 1974, serving as President from 1999 to 2007. Currently and for the past 16 years, he has been President of the Maltese Community Council of SA heading a Community Council represented by all the Maltese community leaders in SA.

Elected to Local Government in 2001, Edgar is currently serving his seventh consecutive term of office as Councillor for the Beverley Ward City of Charles Sturt, having served as Deputy Mayor in 2007, 2010 and currently.

Acknowledged by all three tiers of Government for volunteer services in the community in general, Edgar has been awarded the following: 2001 Premiers Certificate of Appreciation; 2003 Centenary of Federation Medal from the Commonwealth of Australia for service to the Community; 2006 Medal of the Order of Australia for services rendered to Local Government and the Maltese Community; 2009 Governor's Multicultural Awards Certificate for Outstanding Distinguished Service by an individual; 2010 Australian of the Year (Finalist) South Australian Local Hero Category.

In 2021 Edgar was appointed by the Minister for European and Foreign affairs (Malta) to the National Council for the Maltese Living Abroad here in Australia.

Edgar been serving as an Australia Day Council Ambassador since 2010. He has also served as a Justice of the Peace in and for the State of South Australia for many years.

When asked what motivates him, Edgar's response is that he is passionate about giving back to the community, as he is grateful for the opportunities Australia has given him and his family.

**Availability:** Metro all day. Any area in regional SA - one night only

## Wayne Anthony



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*Actor, Theatre Director and Teacher*

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Wayne trained as a scientist at Adelaide University, graduating in 1962, and worked with early computers until opting for a different career path in 1974, involving acting, writing, clowning and comedy. In the 1980's he worked as Humbolt the Clown on the children's TV show "Fat Cat and Friends" and has done many film roles, most recently playing the late John Clarke's demented father in "A Month of Sundays". He taught part-time with the acting students at Adelaide College of the Arts since its first year of operation in 1986 and has written several plays, many of which have been performed in Australia and numerous overseas countries.

In 1996, he took a job as Project Manager for Nyangatjatjara Aboriginal Corporation, living mostly in a caravan at Yulara near Ayers Rock. He retired from the job at the end of 2004 and during those nine years hardly performed at all. The years in the desert, working cross-culturally at a high emotional level, have influenced him greatly.

Wayne has had a long-term concern about environmental issues and sustainability and was for several years the Convenor of Urban Ecology Australia.

A decade ago he published a book, "Travels In A Foreign Land", it being a memoir of his more than thirty years' experience with Aboriginal people in Central Australia. In 2023 he published another, "One Rubber Rooster Is never Enough", this one being about his decades as a clown, actor, teacher and theatre performer.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Daljeet Bakshi



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*Journalist, media professional and community leader*

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Daljeet Bakshi is an accredited journalist, media professional and community leader with over a decade of experience in guiding organizations to effectively engage with their target audiences, convey key messages, and enhance operational efficiency. His career highlights include launching a digital magazine, video news and program spearheading successful fundraising campaigns, and publishing a multitude of articles.

His expertise is built on a strong business acumen, a passion for transformation, and a knack for connecting with diverse groups. Daljeet’s work spans both domestic and international arenas, demonstrating his ability to forge strong relationships and navigate politically sensitive contexts. As a strong believer in diverse community engagement and inclusiveness, Daljeet has collaborated with C-suite executives, government agencies, and community organizations on strategic initiatives.

Currently, Daljeet volunteers as the Coordinator for Australian Sikh Support SA, a Multicultural Ambassador for the Mental Health Foundation of Australia, and as a member of the Multicultural Steering Committee for Port Adelaide Football Club SA.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Monique Bareham



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### *Lymphoedema Advocate and Leader and SA State Recipient Local Hero 2022*

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At 52, Monique Bareham is described as a ‘powerhouse’ lymphoedema advocate, yet thirteen years ago her world was shattered by a cancer diagnosis. Like many who endure cancer treatment, she was left with lymphoedema. Her symptoms were immediate and severe enough to end her career.

Realising South Australia was the only state without a compression garment subsidy scheme and limited public clinics, Monique set about righting this wrong. By reinventing herself as a Lymphoedema Patient Advocate.

She became President of the Lymphoedema Association SA Inc., and established connections with the Flinders Centre for Innovation in Cancer and the Flinders Lymphoedema Clinical Research Unit. Monique’s tireless lobbying and advocacy led to the launch of a South Australian Lymphoedema Compression Garment Subsidy Scheme in July 2020. In 2022 Monique was awarded the title of 2022 Australian of the Year, South Australian Local Hero and the prestigious 2022 Joy Noble Medal.

Monique is focussed on producing patient centred research which translates into positive patient outcomes and regularly collaborates as Chief Investigator (CI) in Australian and International Health and Medical research including MRFF (Medical Research Future Fund) Projects at FHMRI and SAHMRI. She is invited to co-author papers including a recent Lancet Publication on Breast Cancer Related Lymphoedema (BCRL). Monique is a sitting member of the South Australian Health Performance Council (HPC), SA Health Lymphoedema Advisory Group, MASCC Lymphoedema Steering Committee, FHMRI Consumer Advisory Board and PC4 Consumer Advisory Group. She holds a Graduate Diploma in Education and a Bachelor of Music (Performance) and enjoyed careers in Education and the Public Sector (management) prior to her cancer.

Monique remains a dedicated volunteer lived experience patient advocate and peer support for individuals affected by lymphoedema and cancer survivors Nationwide. Currently Monique is focussed on advocating for a nationally consistent approach to the management of lymphoedema and improvements in lymphoedema data collection Australia wide and is the driving force behind the first Australian Federal Parliamentary Friends of Lymphoedema Group launched at Parliament House, Canberra in March 2024.

**Availability:** Metropolitan area only.

## Kylan Beech



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### *Young Citizen of the Year 2024*

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Just before Kylan Beech's 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, he lost his mother, Tammy, to cancer. Rather than focusing on his grief, Kylan became determined to help ensure others would not have to experience the same tragedy. To help fund the early detection of cancer, Kylan focused on fund raising for the Cancer Council, riding his bike 220 kilometres from his home to Barmera. Convincing his three older brothers to join him, Kylan coordinated the '220 for Tammy' event, gaining sponsorship then organizing a dinner and auction for over 200 people, raising over \$30,000, all while in Year 11.

Then just after his 20<sup>th</sup> birthday, Kylan and his brothers completed a 2,200 kilometre ride from the Gold Coast to Adelaide, with Kylan as organiser of the support crew, videographer and media coverage. He created and maintained a website and social media coverage to spread the word. The team got to know the communities through which they passed, with many of them also raising funds. In the Riverland the brothers addressed local school students, speaking about their experiences and their cause.

This ride culminated in a further fundraising event, with entertainment, auction items and merchandise for sale after which Kylan continued to raise funds, including through a documentary about their 2022 ride. In all, Kylan's untiring efforts have raised over \$100,000 for the Cancer Council, all before his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Kylan works as a Disability Support Worker with disabled adults, helping clients integrate into their local communities. He has also been a volunteer for the St Vincent de Paul Society for many years, has worked as Youth Minister and mentor at Nazareth and Sacred Heart Colleges, umpires for the SANFL reserves and works in the family business. In both his paid and unpaid work, Kylan dedicates his life to helping others.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Stella Braund



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*Mental Health and Social Justice Advocate and nominee for South Australian of the Year 2024*

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Stella Braund uses her lived experience of childhood domestic violence and sexual assault -at home and in institutional settings - to improve people's lives. As a first generation Australian, hailing from war torn Europe and English as her fourth language, Stella overcame these early challenges to make a significant contribution to the lives of countless Australians through her tireless work to increase health services, reform policies and pioneer change for the most vulnerable in our community.

Stella has demonstrated outstanding leadership in helping to establish the National Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Helpline – 1800 RESPECT, which has had a far-reaching impact across Australia, enabling vulnerable individuals and children to access crisis supports and counselling and begin their journey to recovery from family violence and abuse.

Utilising her lived experience of childhood domestic violence, sexual assault and trauma, she has devoted her personal and professional life to improving mental health and social services, reducing stigma, discrimination and ensuring the delivery of services are person centred, with a trauma informed approach.

Stella is a champion for marginalised and vulnerable communities, dedicated to turning obstacles into opportunities, by building a recovery orientated approach supporting people living with mental ill health, their carers and families to access appropriate services and opportunities to live fulfilling lives.

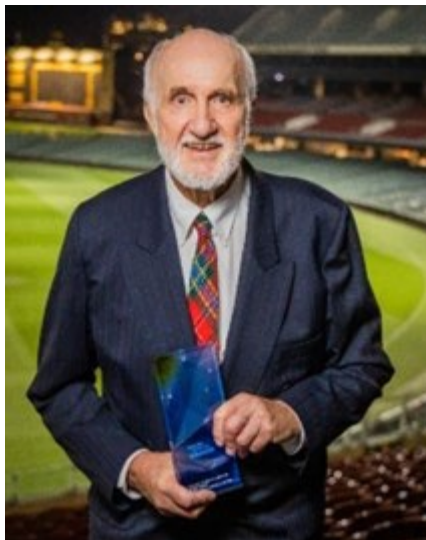
Stella provides advice regarding mental health policy, planning and safety on a range of committees for SA Health across the state. As a Lived Experience advocate at the Office of the Chief Psychiatrist of SA, Stella promotes codesign and collaboration in the area of policy development, quality improvement, clinical governance, risk management, evaluation of health services across government and non-government agencies, emergency services such as SA Ambulance Service, Urgent Mental Health Care Centre and Drug and Alcohol Services.

She's a powerful advocate for marginalised people, and volunteers for organisations working with disadvantaged groups, by servicing on numerous executive board appointments across government and tertiary institutions to create opportunities for vulnerable people. For her commitment, Stella was recognised as South Australian Citizen of the Year 2023, nominee for South Australian of the Year 2024, SA Volunteer of the Year Joy Noble Award 2023, SA Women's Honour Roll 2023, Awards Australia-Community Achievement Award - Carer Achievement Award 2023, SA Child Protection Award 2023 and TAFE SA CEO Award and Positive Impact Award 2022 and The Advertiser SA Woman of the Year 2024 finalist.

**Availability:** Any area of the state



## Richard Bruggemann



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*Disability advocate & SA State Recipient Senior Australian of the Year 2021*

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At 80 years old, Richard Bruggemann is continuing to make a difference to the lives of people living with an intellectual disability.

Throughout his career, he has provided expert advice to governments on disability services, legislation, inclusion and rights. He is a dedicated volunteer, has sat on more than 20 non-government boards and committees, and is a prolific writer on topics of concern for the disability community.

In 2020, he was called on by the South Australian Government to join the special taskforce investigating the tragic death of cerebral palsy sufferer, Ann Marie Smith. Richard was also appointed to a new government role to assess the temporary orders to protect people living with a cognitive or mental impairment from the spread of the COVID-19 virus. His ongoing leadership has helped create a community service system that helps people with intellectual disability and their families enjoy a better quality of life.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Dr Peter Calahan



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*Strategist in the tourism and cultural sector*

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Dr Peter Cahalan retired in 2021 after a long career in museums and the tourism industry.

After training as a teacher with the South Australian Education Department he became a teacher in history at the University of Adelaide before undertaking a PhD at McMaster University in Canada. His experience whilst in Canada and when undertaking research in England led him to an awareness of regional diversity in Australia. He says that he went overseas as an Australian and came back a South Australian!

In 1978 he became founding director of the Constitutional Museum of SA. This in turn became the foundation of the History Trust of South Australia, of which he was the first CEO as of 1981. During his time there he oversaw the establishment of the Migration and SA Maritime Museums, the redevelopment of the Birdwood Mill as the National Motor Museum and the creation of the National Railway Museum. He was involved then and later in numerous history related projects and was an active supporter of the State's several hundred history museums and historical societies.

He moved to the SA Tourism Commission in 2000. There he served in varying roles. These included managing interpretive tourism projects and serving as the regional tourism manager for the Flinders Ranges and Outback and Fleurieu Peninsula and liaising with the State's 11 non-metropolitan tourism regions. A consistent theme throughout his career is an interest in regional communities and the volunteers who give so much to sustaining them.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Ralph Clarke



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*Industrial Relations Consultant former Government Minister and Councillor for Adelaide City Council*

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Ralph began his career in Industrial Relations as a union official for the Federated Clerks Union. He then became President of that union and served on other national union organisations. He is currently a member of several Government Advisory Boards.

Ralph was elected to the South Australian Parliament in 1993 and held many portfolios and positions during his political career. After leaving politics he was elected to the Adelaide City Council where he served for several years.

A broad sense of humour and quick wit enables Ralph to make his point succinctly and effectively.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Anthony Fioravanti



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*Superintendent, State Intelligence Branch*

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Superintendent Anthony Fioravanti is currently the Officer in Charge of State Intelligence Branch. His career has spanned nearly 42 years and career highlights have included 18 years in the Special Task and Rescue Group and previous postings as the Officer in Charge of Barossa Yorke Local Service Area, South Coast Local Service Area, Western Adelaide Local Service Area, Eastern Adelaide Local Service Area, STAR Group, Traffic Support Branch and Western District.

During his career he was fortunate to have been selected to participate in the 2009 South Australia and New Zealand Police Officer Exchange Program. He was seconded to the New Zealand Police Service and was posted to Christchurch. During this three-month secondment he lived within the Christchurch CBD and relieved as the Officer in Charge of Christchurch Central (CBD). In February 2011 he returned to Christchurch as the South Australia Police Contingent Commander to assist in the earthquake efforts. During his four week deployment he was the only Australian police officer to perform a Command role in the Police Earthquake Operation Centre.

Anthony has always had an interest in health and wellbeing and enjoys his regular gym workouts and classes. He has recently finished studying to become a physical trainer. He is also the vice-president of the Marche Club – an Italian community club.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Gill Golding



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### *South Australian Citizen of the Year 2024*

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Gill is an inspirational leader who feels the pulse of her community in Hackham West and the hardship it faces as a low socio-economic area ranking in the top 3 percentile of disadvantaged suburbs nationally, with significant levels of disadvantage across a myriad of social indicators.

Gill is comfortable working on strategies, advocating to Government Ministers, MPs and Councillors or working on complex funding agreements. Equally you will find her packing food parcels, organising raffle items or manning a stall at a community event. Her can-do attitude and willingness to get involved and make a difference rubs off and inspires others to do the same,

For six years Gill held the position of Chairperson of the Hackham West Community Centre Board of Management, leading the strategic and operational activity of the Centre through some tough and turbulent times.

Each year Hackham West Community Centre delivers 22 programs tackling disadvantage to over 10,000 people. Its programs and events build a sense of community connection and cohesiveness, seeking to achieve equality and equity for the people of Hackham West.

Gill has also been a member of the Hackham West Children's Centre Governing Council, the Christies Beach High School Governing Council, People Matters Hackham West (PMHW) for over 13 years and the Central North East District Reference Group. Through these connections, Gill has made a significant impact on her community.

**Availability:** Metropolitan area only

## Anthony Hart



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### *Mental Health Advocate & Nominee South Australian Local Hero 2022*

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In November 2003, Anthony Hart made a significant attempt on his life. Through a remarkable stroke of luck, he clung onto life and survived. Since then, Anthony has been on a mission to empower men to identify and address challenges before they escalate into serious mental health issues.

During his recovery, Anthony developed the Mind Health Toolbox – a free self-help toolbox to assist anyone dealing with the early signs of stress, anxiety or depression. It provides users with four steps to help achieve better mind health.

Having seen too many locals lose their life to suicide, Anthony and friend and farmer Gavin Schuster created Save our Mates, Chew the Fat Nights. Supported by a community for men only, the free events are held in regional South Australia throughout the year.

With the tagline “Blokes would rather hear your challenges than your eulogy”, Chew the Fat nights enable men to grab a feed, drink some beer, hear from everyday Aussie guest speakers who share their stories, and most importantly, to talk.

Anthony is also a speaker and workshop facilitator engaged across Australia to share his story and inspire men to take better care of their mental and physical wellbeing.

**Availability:** Any area of the state up to two nights.

## Stephen Hedges



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*Recipient of South Australia's Award for Active Citizenship 2022*

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Stephen Hedges has become an acknowledged expert on the Little penguin colony on Granite Island. He has made an outstanding contribution to penguin research, first as a tour guide for more than 20 years, and then as a research assistant with Flinders University, and the BirdLab for 10 years.

His voluntary work and field trips assisting in the colony's survival has not only added to an enhanced understanding of the factors affecting their decline by helping to collect crucial information, including sadly, keeping a detailed record of sea birds washed up along the south coast. He also formed a volunteer group of citizen scientists that visit the colony every night caring for the penguins and educating visitors. He is often called on to communicate the current science and stories to Local and State Governments, conservation groups, the media and his community, both young and old.

He became Senior Environmental Advisor to the company leading the Granite Island Causeway Project. He also worked for the City of Victor Harbor as an advisor and organizer of tours.

Stephen's other environmental interests include setting up a self-sufficient rural property using permaculture principles, grows local plants, formed a biodiversity group, DEW Friend of Granite Island, a Fleurieu Marine Education presenter and regular on dolphin and whale watch trips. He has over time set up trails, parks and larger planting projects usually connected to the schools he taught at over 45 years.

Apart from his environmental side he is a presenter with RYDA, a national road safety program, a life member of Back Valley Tennis Club, long term volunteer at WOMAD and is in a BUSH BAND!!

**Availability :** Fleurieu and surrounding areas, Metro all day



## Lynn Hill



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*Co-founder of Dragon Boat Racing for survivors of Breast Cancer*

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Lynn grew up in Adelaide, owned her own business and was a keen volunteer with Schools and Charities.

She was diagnosed with Breast Cancer in 2000 and from then her journey began into raising awareness of cancer in the sport of Dragon Boat Racing.

Lynn was involved with Dragon boat racing since 2000, winning Gold, Silver & Bronze medals in Australia, Italy, South Africa, Indonesia & Malaysia. Lynn helped form 2 clubs of Breast cancer Survivors in Adelaide, another in the Riverland and then teams in Penang & KL in Malaysia. Participating in paddling, fund-raising & Public Relations was her passion whilst promoting awareness and early detection of cancer. Promoting the importance of exercise after Cancer surgery.

Lynn won the Zonta Woman of the Year award & Council of the Ageing (COTA) Every Generation award for promoting involvement in physical activity for the over 50's.

**Availability:** Fleurieu, metro and close regional.



## Nasir Hussain



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*Citizen of the Year 2023 - City of Charles Sturt*

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Since migrating to Australia in 2006, Nasir has devoted himself to building bridges between Muslims and the wider Australian society. Nasir has the significant ability and passion to build and sustain connections among communities, demonstrating his core values of inclusion, respect, and professional integrity (be it in a paid or voluntary role).

In 2018, Nasir established the Muslim Australia Connections of SA (MACSA), a not-for-profit organization, to provide ongoing support in the settlement process to new Muslims arrivals and international students. Nasir believes in volunteering and empowering others, benefits all community members in SA.

Nasir is a board member with MCCSA and a founding member of MCCSA - Multicultural Men's Group of SA. Nasir actively supports fundraising for those in need, recently he raised \$36,000 to purchase an access vehicle required for a disabled young man.

Nasir holds a Master of Social Work from Flinders University. His ongoing extraordinary contribution to promote social inclusion, understanding of multiculturalism and interculturalism in SA to benefit all Australians has been acknowledged via his awards:

- Citizen of the Year Award 2023 - City of Charles Sturt
- Finalist AASW SA 2021 (Head, Heart & Hands Award)
- Governor's Multicultural Award - Volunteering 2018 Finalist

**Availability:** Metropolitan area only

## Dr Robert 'Bob' Irving



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*Veterinarian, SA Nominee Senior Australian of the Year 2019*

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For 28 years veterinarian surgeon Dr Bob Irving spent half of each year travelling to Aboriginal remote communities in the Anangu-Yankunytjatjara-Pitjantjatjara (AYP) lands in South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory to treat sick animals, mostly dogs.

Funded by government Dog Health Program, Bob travelled by road to many remote areas in dangerous terrain. In early days, he often had to camp out with his swag and cook over an open fire. Originally beginning in South Australia, he soon realised that dogs were travelling from interstate for sporting events, funerals and ceremonial activities, so he extended the program to communities in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Since Bob's retirement, this valuable service has been taken over by AMRRIC after he took a team of young vets to the communities which Bob used to visit. This ensured the new team were familiar with the local environment, the people to liaise with, and could keep the programs rolling. The new team of vets has been well received across the APY lands and the WA regions, with the programs continuing to improve the welfare of all the animals out there. This in turn improves human health as well by reducing the risk of transmission of skin infections, diarrheal diseases and chronic gut parasitic infections from dogs to humans.

Bob misses the people out there, the great relationships he had, and the countryside which was a big part of his life for 28 years. He is grateful to all the aboriginal people who made him feel welcome and assisted willingly with the programs. However, he keeps busy and since his retirement from remote work, Bob regularly does Locum Veterinary work in Adelaide clinics when needed. He is also a voluntary on call member of SAVEM, (South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management), which involves assisting in emergency animal welfare issues after natural disasters such as the recent bushfires and flooding, where animals require urgent treatments and/or rescue. In addition, he is maintaining his training in Biosecurity issues to assist in the event of an outbreak of exotic disease entering Australia from overseas.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Ingrid Kennerley



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*Mental Health Advocate 2019 South Australia Citizen of the Year*

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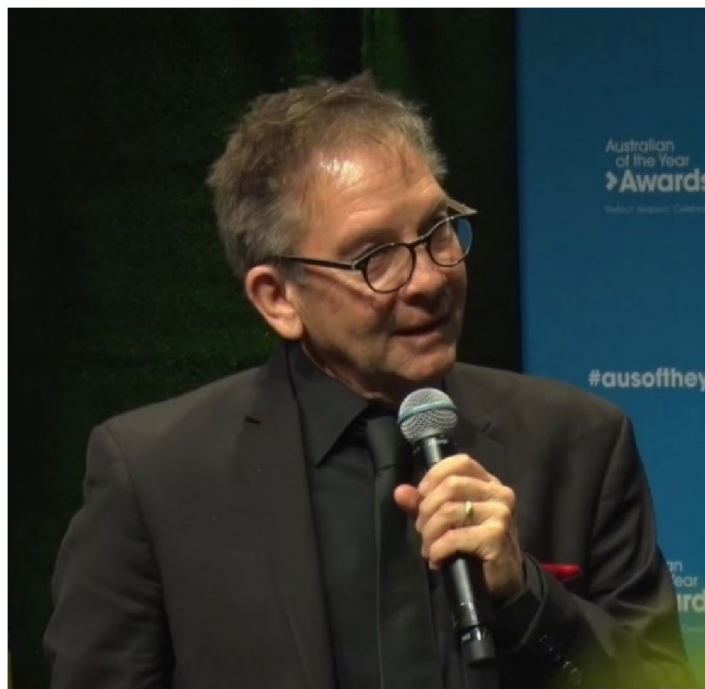
Ingrid is the kind of no-fuss, steadfast, community-minded person who helps to make our towns and districts such great places to live. Ingrid's peers note that she is a true community leader: she leads by example with her strong community values, dedication through volunteering, and her personal inspirational manner and attitude.

After her husband's suicide, Ingrid displayed incredible strength and resilience, guiding her children through the tragedy, and maintaining her volunteering and support roles that are so vital to small communities. In particular, she served the Cummins and Districts War Memorial Swimming Pool as Committee Member / Treasurer (still ongoing after 14 years), the Rambler Netball Club as Committee Member and various other positions, and the RNC Canteen Committee Representative as Treasurer.

It is said that everyone in the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula knows Ingrid and has had some connection with her through her various events or clubs and her reputation is widely recognised by its dedication, resilience, strength, and enduring commitment.

**Availability:** Metropolitan area, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Lower and Mid North regions

## Mark Le Messurier



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*Educator, Counsellor and Author, South Australian Senior of the Year 2022*

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Mark Le Messurier has devoted his life to improving the self-worth, wellbeing, mental health and life outcomes of young people. He focuses on those he calls the ‘tough kids’ – those who are struggling in some capacity. This includes children with disabilities, global developmental delays, disadvantage, disorders, neglect, or a combination of issues.

After a 20-year teaching career, Mark opened a private-practice consultancy to mentor children and teenagers who needed support beyond the school system, and to coach parents. His goal has always been to create environments that set children and adults up for success.

He’s authored numerous books for teachers and parents, including co-authoring *What’s the Buzz?* – a world-class social and emotional literacy education program. It’s become a standard course in the training of teachers, counsellors, psychologists, social workers, and youth workers in over 90 countries.

Mark’s generosity and consideration for others is profound, far reaching, and life changing. He’s helped many families and is a relatable role model and mentor.

**Availability:** Metropolitan area only

## Dr Felicity-Ann Lewis



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*Community Leader & 2014 SA Australian of the Year*

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A dedicated, dynamic leader, Dr Felicity-Ann Lewis is passionate about creating a better, healthier, more inclusive Australia. She has worked tirelessly to further reconciliation with Aboriginal people, and to support the settlement process for refugees and migrants. Both a leader and a team player, Felicity-Ann sits on many boards, including the Migrant Resource Centre and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial Fundraising Committee*.

Felicity-Ann has helped raise \$100,000 towards Australia's first memorial recognising the sacrifice of Indigenous people in war. Her passion for the community is matched by a commitment to health promotion, and she achieved a Doctor of Education from the University of South Australia in August 2013 and is currently a senior lecturer at Flinders University.

An inspiration to many, Felicity-Ann was also the long-serving Mayor of Marion and National President of the Australian Local Government Association. Felicity-Ann's actions, as much as her words, encourage people to make their communities the best they can be.

**Availability:** Fleurieu

## Dr Trudy Lin



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*Dr Trudy Lin, Young South Australian of the Year 2022*

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Dr Trudy Lin, awarded Young Australian of the Year for South Australia in 2022, and one of ten everyday Australians selected to represent Australia at Queen Eliabeth the II's funeral, is one of only 3 specialists in Special Needs Dentistry in South Australia, one of only 26 in Australia, providing care to people with disability, complex medical conditions (such as cancer) and with complex psychosocial circumstances (e.g. domestic violence victims).

She delivers oral health care at a clinic in Mile End and provides mobile dentistry in people's homes and residential care facilities. Outside of her clinical work, Trudy is a leadership coach and a workshop facilitator for the SA Health Leading Clinicians program, with her first involvement in 2017, and involved in various national and international advocacy roles, including the Australasian representative for the International Advisory Committee for the International Association for Disability and Oral Health (IADH).

**Availability:** Any area of the state



## Professor Jennifer McKay AM



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*Professor – Business, Law and Environment*

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Professor Jennifer McKay AM is an academic lawyer with a passion for research to celebrate some but reform other laws to achieve a sound and clean environment for future generations. Professor McKay has conducted research in all Australian states and been a trusted advisor to governments to move toward inclusive laws on water and environmental management.

Jennifer is a lover of trees and animals and enjoys the outback and meeting community members engaged in actions to improve our common future. Professor McKay has researched on laws in the US, India, Fiji and Vietnam and takes a human rights-based approach.

Jennifer has two adult children, five dogs, completed the Heysen trail in 2018, renovated an old home and enjoyed nine Variety car events to every part of SA and parts of other States across the country.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Professor Helen Marshall AM



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*SA State Recipient Australian of the Year 2022 Professor Helen Marshall - Vaccination researcher*

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Professor Helen Marshall is one of Australia's most celebrated and recognised vaccination researchers. Specialising in vaccinology, public health and infectious diseases at the University of Adelaide's Robinson Research Institute, Helen has been involved in game-changing studies that have had a global impact.

A key focus is the fight to stop meningococcal B. Helen is a lead investigator for the 'B Part of It' study, which assessed the effectiveness of meningococcal B vaccines on invasive meningococcal disease in Australian teens and young adults. The study is the largest of its kind globally and investigates the herd immunity impact of the meningococcal B vaccine.

Since 2004, Helen has published 211 peer-reviewed papers and been awarded 17 research grants totalling more than \$33 million. She's also been the recipient of three National Health and Medical Research Council Fellowships.

During the pandemic, Helen provided advice about meningococcal B and COVID-19 to the South Australian Minister for Health and the Chief Public Health Officer.

**Availability:** Metropolitan area only



## Professor Rob Morrison OAM CF



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*Scientist and former host of the Curiosity Show, SA State Recipient Senior Australia of the Year 2008*

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Rob has had a dual career as academic and science broadcaster and writer. He is currently a Professorial Fellow at Flinders University. He has written more 40 books and co-written 13 more on science and natural history. He has been the co-host of the national TV program Curiosity Show, which ran for 18 years and was broadcast in 14 countries, the science, environment and technology correspondent for Channel 10 TV News and the producer of science segments for Australia's Asia Pacific program Nexus, which went to 43 countries in our region.

He has broadcast regularly on the ABC's Science Show and Ockham's Razor and frequently on local radio. Rob helped establish SciWorld, a new mobile science centre in Adelaide that runs exciting education programs and he was its inaugural chair. He is or has been the chair of many other science organisations, including Zoos SA, responsible for Adelaide and Monarto Zoos.

He has been recognised nationally and internationally as an outstanding science communicator and has won many national and international awards, including two Eureka Prizes, one being the Australian Government Eureka Prize for the Promotion of Science, the Michael Daley Award for Science Journalism, and the inaugural SA South Australian Government award for Excellence in Science Communication. He was the Senior Australian of the Year (South Australia) in 2008.

**Availability:** Metropolitan and Adelaide Hills

## Michael O'Connell AM APM



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*Consulting Victimologist, SA Nominee Australian of the Year 2020*

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From 2006 until 2018, Michael was appointed South Australia's (and Australia's) first Commissioner for Victims'; Rights. Prior, Michael was SA's first Victims of Crime Co-ordinator and, before that, while serving as a police officer, he became the State's first Victim Impact Statement Co-ordinator. He is a Life Member and also the current Secretary-General of the World Society of Victimology; a Vice President of the NGO Alliance on Crime Prevention & Criminal Justice (@Vienna) and a member of Alliance (@New York); the Victim Advocate for Second Chances SA; Member of the International Network of Services for Victims of Terrorism; and, Foundation & Board Member of Victim Support Asia. For over a decade, Michael was a White Ribbon Ambassador; and is the Patron, Love Hope and Gratitude Foundation.

Although retired, Michael is an Independent Decision Maker for Australia's National Redress Scheme for adult survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions. He is also a volunteer expert on crime victims'; rights for the United Nations. He is assisting with the revision of the UN Handbook on Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power as well as the drafting both guidelines on assisting victims of terrorism in Asia-Pacific and model legislation covering victims of terrorism in general.

Michael strives to ensure victims have a voice and attain voice recognition (i.e. they are heard, and their views respected). He lectures and writes in the field of victimology and holds degrees in social science and public policy and administration. In 1995 he was awarded the Australia Police Medal for his work to advance responses to the needs of victims of crime. In 2017 he became a Member of the Order of Australia.

In 2004 and 2018 he was a nominee-finalist for South Australia's Australian of the Year.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Kaitlin Purcell



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### *Recipient of Commendation Emerging Leader award 2021*

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At just 16 years old, Kaitlin was awarded a highly commended certificate from the Order of Australia Association. Before completing year 12 at Strathalbyn High School, Kaitlin attended five different schools due to family relocations. It is an experience Kaitlin says she is grateful for because it gave her the opportunity to learn and teach indigenous art and culture and be involved with some very unique extracurricular school activities. Then Premier Steven Marshall awarded Kaitlin the Commendation Emerging Leader award at the 2021 Inspiring South Australian Women's Awards, which recognises outstanding women who have made a significant contribution to the community.

Kaitlin has supported the introduction of women's football across many regional communities as well as inspired many to connect with this code. She established the second league to exist under the Great Southern Football League for females and received 2018 Female Coach of South Australia from North Adelaide Football Club. Her passion and commitment to the sporting industry is demonstrated through her multiple volunteering roles including the role of sports trainer for the Australian Combined Emergency Services, the Australian Police Football Association and committee member for the far North Football League. In this league, Kaitlin commenced and coached the junior girls' football teams.

Her work in supporting the community is further highlighted through her ambassadorial role for Around the Camp Fire, a not-for-profit sporting organisation with an aim to promote reconciliation and encourage diversity on the sporting field. Kaitlin is an inspiring pioneer for young females across the state; through her hard work and determination she has helped to remove barriers as well as motivate younger generations to pursue their true passions. In addition to her passion for Aussie rules football and being a role model for young girls, Kaitlin enjoys sharing her life journey on her social media platforms and expressing her feelings through paintings.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Christine Robertson OAM



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*Co-founder of Lost Pets of South Australia & creator of the Chipblitz program: South Australian Citizen of the Year 2023*

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More than 65,000 pets across Australia have received a microchip thanks to Christine Robertson, but that wasn't what she initially set out to achieve.

Christine co-founded the Lost Pets of South Australia charity in 2013 to reunite lost pets with their families. The volunteer organisation uses social media and its connections with the RSPCA and other animal welfare groups to get lost animals back home.

However, it soon became apparent that many pets were being lost because their owners couldn't afford to get them microchipped. Microchip fees generally start at about \$65. So Christine developed the Chipblitz program in 2015, allowing trained implanters to microchip a pet for just \$10. Chipblitz is now the biggest pet microchipping program in the Southern Hemisphere. It has a partnership with national pet goods store PETstock and 1,400-plus volunteers. More than 44,000 pets have been chipped in South Australia alone since the program began.

**Availability:** Metro Adelaide and inner regional areas

## Ranielson Santana



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*Inclusion Advocate & Community Leader*

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Ranielson Santana's journey from Recife, Brazil to Australia exemplifies resilience and dedication. Arriving in 2018 as an international student with English as his third language, Ranielson faced significant challenges. Leveraging his background in Economics and Accounting, he navigated various industries, demonstrating remarkable versatility and determination.

His personal experiences have ignited a strong passion for supporting CALD communities, driven by a commitment to social justice and empowerment. Currently engaged with MCCA, Ranielson works to foster inclusive environments for all. His commitment is also evident in his roles as former Chairperson of ABRISA (Vic) and current member of BASA (SA), where he actively supports Brazilian community organizations in Australia. His volunteer work with various organizations underscores his commitment to community service.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Ranielson received the "Treasurer of the Year - Not for Profit Organisation" award from Our Community in 2022. He has also supported international students during COVID-19 raised more than \$12k, helped new arrivals with settlement processes, and is a strong advocate for LGBT+ rights and Indigenous reconciliation. His own experiences overcoming barriers fuel his passion for assisting others in integrating into Australian society.

**Availability:** Any area of the state



## Craig Scott OAM



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*South Australian Citizen of the Year 2021*

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Craig is a well-known driving force behind the Goodwood Saints Football Club and has been involved in the club for the past 45 years. He is a TAFE SA tutor for the Advanced Diploma of Policing, a retired Police Officer with SAPOL (42 years) and a past volunteer with Operation Flinders.

Craig was President of the Goodwood Saints for six years 2017 - 2022. His vision and guidance have seen the development of a female football program that now boasts 7 teams and was instrumental in the setting up of the Inclusive football team back in 1992, which ensures players with integration difficulties – including mental and physical disabilities – are entirely integrated within the club.

Craig's strong advocacy for social justice issues is reflected by his work undertaken at the club and in the community. He's implemented opportunities for the homeless from the Hutt Street Centre, and supported causes like the Red Shield Appeal, Breast Cancer and Mental Health education and support. His empowering nature and leadership abilities have enabled him to create a strong, healthy, and more resilient community.

He has a Bachelor of Management (Policing) and is a member of the Office of Recreation and Sport 'Women in Sports - Taskforce'.

Craig was awarded the South Australia – Citizen of the Year Award 2021, a finalist in the Australian of the Year – Local Hero 2021 and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2024.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Glyn Scott



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*Nominee SA Senior Australian of the Year 2024*

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Glyn Scott survived years of violence and sexual abuse – first as a child and later in her first marriage.

In 2006 Glyn gave evidence to the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry about her childhood experience of sexual abuse. Her personal experience led to what became legal history in 2012 when a High Court decision ruled that there was no marital exemption to rape. This changed Commonwealth law nationally and set a precedent, paving the way for other women who had a similar experience to come forward.

In 2015, Glyn founded the Love, Hope & Gratitude Foundation. The organisation provides counselling, advocacy and educational programs to domestic violence survivors, and shelter for adults, children and pets.

With courage and compassion, Glyn continues to devote her own time, money and skills to support and advocate for other domestic violence and sexual abuse survivors.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Alexandra Seal



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### *Young Citizen of the Year 2024*

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Alexandra is a dedicated and passionate advocate for social justice, community service and environmental sustainability, demonstrating active citizenship and enhancement of community life through various platforms, both within and without her school. Alexandra is filled with a great passion and drive for social and environmental change, and feels it is her life's purpose to leave this world a better place.

Actively engaged in volunteering within her school, Alexandra is a leader within various justice groups and has been involved in advocacy and fundraising for several years such as taking part in tree planting in Victoria Park and implementing recycling programs. Using her creative skills, Alexandra created a compelling video advocating for girls' rights as part of the Mind the Gap movement for UN Women.

Through her involvement with the Governor's Leadership Foundation, Alexandra engaged with elderly aged care residents and creating resources to guide nursing homes in fostering intergenerational connections. A participant in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, she has been the recipient of the Steele and Cooper Award and the Premier's ANZAC Spirit Prize. Most recently, Alexandra was awarded South Australian Young Citizen of the Year 2024 at 17 years of age.

Alexandra works tirelessly to give a voice to the voiceless through her business Six Spaces which she started at 14 years old. Advocating and raising awareness for different social causes to help the disadvantaged in the local community, Alexandra donates her own time, money, and resources to charities like Families4Families who assist those suffering from an Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). Showcasing her commitment to Families4Families, Alexandra also created a short film series interviewing survivors and family members about their experiences. The film is used by Families4Families to educate and inform others about ABI and support the families of those impacted.

Alexandra seeks only to help others and the environment, raising awareness and starting conversations.

**Availability:** Metropolitan and inner regional areas



## John Raymond Shepherd AM



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*Former Executive Director, Operation Flinders; currently Senior Consultant,*

*The Sapling Connection and General Manager, LBI Foundation*

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John spent twenty-five years within major branches of the S.A. Police Department. Formerly the Executive Director of the Operation Flinders Foundation, which runs a world leading wilderness adventure program for young offenders and young people at risk, John is currently the Senior Consultant for The Sapling Group (a small consulting firm providing the corporate, government, community and not for profit sectors with advice and support in the development and growth of an organisation or concept) and General Manager of the LBI Foundation (a not-for-profit agency dedicated to partnering with individuals and communities supporting Australians impacted by trauma, mental illness, disadvantage, social exclusion or disability).

He has been involved as a board member in numerous Australian and South Australian educational, emergency service and social inclusion organisations.

John is an enthusiastic speaker with a particular passion for helping the youth of South Australia.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Samoda Silva



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*Recipient Award for Leadership in Languages and Cultures 2021*

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Samoda is a university student studying Law/Media and Italian, a first-generation migrant of Sri Lankan background and an active contributor to her local community. Samoda has demonstrated effective leadership through presidency roles with community organisations including Muthuhara Adelaide.

Her dedication and tireless efforts to promote Sri Lankan language and culture are demonstrated by her involvement in hosting, editing, and recording several Sri Lankan television and radio programs such as Adelaide Lakhanda and Vishvavahini. Samoda is passionate about advocating for an inclusive and diverse Australia and promoting multicultural understanding and awareness.

Furthermore, Samoda speaks four languages; English, Sinhala, Italian and Japanese, which in combination made her the recipient of the 2021 Australia Day Council Leadership in Languages Award. Samoda was also a recipient of the Order of Australia Association Student Citizenship Award in 2020 for her contributions to her school and local community.

Samoda is incredibly humbled and fortunate to be an Australia Day Ambassador. She hopes to use this opportunity to engage with the inspiring people of South Australia and promote the understanding of what Australia Day should all be about, reflecting on and recognising Australia's past, and shaping its future and what it means to be Australian.

**Availability:** Any area of the state

## Ian Smith



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### *Veteran Support Activist*

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Ian Smith's tertiary schooling was completed at the University of New England (Bachelor of Professional Studies – Military History) and Charles Sturt University (Graduate Diploma of Public Administration – Policing). Ian joined the Army Reserve in 1984, and then entered the Royal Military College Duntroon, graduating in June 1987. His early career included military police and instructional postings in Australia.

In 1994 Ian was posted to Germany on exchange with the British Royal Military Police, and deployed to the former Yugoslavia in October 1995 as a peacekeeper.

After returning to Australia, Ian transferred back to the Army Reserve in 1998, and spent his reserve service writing publications for the Army. He investigated organised crime and terrorism as a member of the Australian Federal Police between 1998 and 2020, and a tour of Cyprus as a peacekeeper in 2001. He then worked at the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing from 2010.

Ian retired from the Army in 2012 and has since been active within the veteran community. In June 2022 he launched a well-received book about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from South Australia who have served in the Australian armed forces, titled "For Love of Country".

**Availability:** Metropolitan and inner regional areas

## Kate Swaffer



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*Author and Advocate for Living Beyond Dementia.*

*2017 SA Finalist Australian of the Year*

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Kate Swaffer (MSc, B Psych, BA, Ret. Rtd. Nurse) is a researcher, activist, consultant, author and cofounder of Dementia Alliance International. She is currently a PhD candidate at the University of South Australia.

In the 16 years since her own diagnosis of a rare young onset dementia, she has learned to live with it instead of waiting to die from it, and has become a campaigner for dementia to be supported as a condition causing disabilities, including equal access to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) for the 57 million people living with dementia globally.

She's made multiple statements and speeches at the United Nations and World Health Organisation (WHO), and is the first person with dementia to be an invited speaker at the WHO.

Kate is also an Ambassador for the ADC (SA) and for Step Up For Dementia Research in Australia.

**Availability:** Any area of the state