

The Australian Charter of Healthcare Rights

Charter launch speaker biographies – 8 August 2019



Luke Escombe

Award-winning singer-songwriter, comedian and health advocate, Luke is the creator of ‘Chronic’, a one-man comedy show about living with Crohn’s Disease, and children’s band ‘The Vegetable Plot’. He is the self-described “Mick Jagger of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)”.

As an advocate for people living with IBD, Luke’s unique, honest and often hilarious perspective on his own health struggles has made him a sought after keynote speaker and MC at events around the world. He is an ambassador for Crohn’s and Colitis Australia and has spoken at Parliament House in Canberra, around Australia and internationally. Luke is passionate about empowering patients to understand their rights and take an active role in their own care, and is living proof of the power of art and creativity to inspire, connect and transform.



Professor Willis Marshall AC

Chair of the Board at the Commission, Professor Marshall has extensive experience providing healthcare services, managing public hospitals, and improving safety and quality. He has had significant clinical experience as a urologist, and as Clinical Director (Surgical Specialties Service) for the Royal Adelaide

Hospital and Clinical Professor of Surgery at the University of Adelaide. Professor Marshall was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2006 for services to medicine, particularly urology and research into kidney disease, to the development of improved healthcare services in the Defence forces, and to the community through distinguished contributions pre-hospital first aid care. Previous appointments include General Manager at Royal Adelaide Hospital, Senior

Specialist in Urology and Director of Surgery at Repatriation General Hospital, and Professor and Chair of Surgical and Specialty Services at Flinders Medical Centre. Qualifications: MD, MBBS, FRACS.



Dr Grant Davies

Grant began his career as a registered nurse in general and radiation oncology settings and in acute palliative care units. In the 1990s he assisted in the development of Queensland's palliative care policies, Queensland's health outcomes and the impacts of newly emerging guardianship legislation, later moving to a similar role with the Victorian Department of Human Services.

In 2001 he joined the Office of the Federal Commissioner for Complaints and was Investigations Manager during its change into the federal office of the Aged Care Commissioner. In 2009, he was appointed Deputy Commissioner in the Office of the Health Services Commissioner and in 2013 became Acting Health Services Commissioner.

From 2014, Grant commenced as Health Services Commissioner until 2017 when he started as Director of Projects in Safer Care Victoria. In 2018 he was appointed Health and Community Services Complaints Commissioner in South Australia. He holds a Bachelor of Nursing (ACU), a Master of Arts (Research) (QUT) and a PhD (Melbourne) in applied ethics, and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Adjunct Associate Professor Veronica Casey AM

Veronica has held nursing and midwifery executive leadership positions in Queensland Health since 1997. She worked in Nursing and Midwifery Director roles at The Prince Charles Hospital District, the Royal Brisbane Hospital and the Royal Women's Hospital prior to her appointment as Executive Director, Nursing Services at Princess Alexandra Hospital and

Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery Services, Metro South Health.

At Princess Alexandra Hospital she has been instrumental in helping the hospital achieve re-designation under the Magnet credentialing program, and the introduction of the Nurse Sensitive Indicator performance monitoring system.

Veronica's experience and expertise in the nursing profession extends to national and international platforms, holding membership on the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, serving as an inaugural International Magnet Commissioner for the American Nurses Credentialing Centre (ANCC) from 2010 to 2017, and she was appointed to the Commission Board in 2019. She has been recognised with several nursing and midwifery awards, was awarded the QUT Outstanding Alumni award for Health in 2018 and received a 2019 Queens Birthday Honour of AM.



Melissa Fox

Melissa Fox is Chief Executive Officer of Queensland's peak health consumer organisation Health Consumers Queensland (HCQ).

With almost 15 years as a consumer representative, Melissa has seen first-hand the positive impact that consumer engagement has on health outcomes for Queenslanders. She is passionate about challenging health services to go beyond 'tick-a-box' engagement and empower consumers to partner meaningfully in order to design, deliver and evaluate health services which provide safe, integrated consumer-centred care. Her other roles include Chair of the Partnering with Consumers Committee of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, and Vice President of the Queensland AIDS Council.



Associate Professor Amanda Walker

Associate Professor Amanda Walker is a Specialist in Palliative Medicine in the Southern Highlands of NSW who has led state-wide work in End-of-Life Care and Diagnostic Error at the Clinical Excellence Commission in NSW.

Her work as a Clinical Director at the Commission has primarily focused on the development of clinical care standards, resources to support clinicians and managers addressing hospital acquired complications, and supporting clinicians to provide comprehensive care.