



## Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council

### Chair



**Diane Smith-Gander AO** is non-executive director AGL Energy, Wesfarmers Limited, NQA Group of Companies, Chair of Safe Work Australia, a board member of Keystart Loans, CEDA, member of the NRFA Partnership Council, and past President of Chief Executive Women. Ms Smith-Gander is currently appointed to the three member panel reviewing the capability of APRA, the banking industry regulator, following the Hayne Royal Commission. Her past non-executive roles include chair of Broadspectrum, deputy chair of NBNC Co and non-executive director of the CBH Group. Her last executive role was as a group executive at Westpac Banking Corporation. Ms Smith-Gander was a partner of McKinsey & Company serving clients in diverse industries globally and remains a senior advisor to the Australian partnership. Ms Smith-Gander is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and Governance Institute of Australia and adjunct professor of Corporate Governance at University of Western Australia where she serves on the advisory board of the Business School.

### Council Members

#### Commonwealth representative



**Michelle Baxter** has been the Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia since November 2014. Before her appointment Ms Baxter held senior roles across the Australian Public Service including as group manager in the former Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), group manager responsible for agency change with the Fair Work Ombudsman and group manager, Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Taskforce with DEEWR. Ms Baxter is also a Commissioner of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Council. Ms Baxter has a bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts from the Australian National University and is admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor in the Australian Capital Territory.

#### State, Territory and Local Government representatives



**Ms Marnie Williams (Victoria)** is the Chief, Business Operations at WorkSafe Victoria. Throughout her career Ms Williams has held senior leadership roles in three regulatory bodies including Chief Executive Officer, Taxi Services Commission and General Manager, Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure as well as a variety of senior level positions at WorkSafe Victoria spanning over 19 years. Ms Williams has extensive experience in social policy development, operational management, change management and strategic planning and holds educational qualifications in Applied Science and Occupational and Environmental Health.



**Ms Melina Sehr (Local Government)** is a Partner for PricewaterhouseCoopers' Assurance practice, specialising in risk management and program assurance. She has over 25 years of experience working on large transformational programs within Australia's major companies across financial services, telecommunications, energy and utilities, health and public sectors. Ms Sehr is also a Councillor with the City of Stonnington and has served as Mayor for four terms since being first elected in 2002. She has a Bachelor of Social Science (Information Management), a Master in Human Nutrition and is currently completing a Master of Commercial Law. Ms Sehr is also a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Justice of the Peace.



**Mr Tony Circelli (South Australia)** is Chief Executive of the Environment Protection Authority, and has held a variety of senior executive positions, including leading national and state policy and strategy development, operations and corporate governance functions. Prior to the EPA, Tony worked in the engineering consulting field.

Mr Circelli has led a number of waste and resource recovery related reforms in South Australia over the last 10 years, including assisting government to introduce nation leading provisions under the State's Waster to Resources Policy to establish the operating framework and conditions that underpin SA's billion dollar resource recovery sector.

### Employee/worker representative



**Mr Liam O'Brien** was elected to the position of Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) Assistant Secretary in December 2018. Mr O'Brien started with the Australian Workers' Union Victorian Branch in 2003 as an organiser. It was a role that gave him experience across the state and insight into the issues that concern members. In 2009 he was elected Victorian Vice-President and in that same year became a national organiser with responsibility for industries including aluminium, glass and construction. In that capacity he played a pivotal role in major campaigns including the fight to save Alcoa - Point Henry. In 2013 Mr O'Brien was elected as AWU National Vice-President and Victorian Assistant Secretary.

Mr O'Brien is responsible for OHS and workers' compensation matters at the ACTU.



## Employer representative



**Ms Tracey Browne** is Manager, National Safety and Workers' Compensation Policy and Membership Services for the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group). Ms Browne has been a member of the council since its inception.

Before joining Ai Group in 2001, she held senior positions within the manufacturing sector in Human Resources, WHS and Workers' Compensation. Ms Browne holds a Bachelor of Business (Personnel Management), Graduate Diploma in Occupational Hazard Management, and a Master of Applied Science in OHS. In her role with Ai Group Ms Browne provides advice and training to employers in WHS and Workers' Compensation, across all Australian jurisdictions, and brings her broad range of practical knowledge to her representation role at a national and jurisdictional level.

## Other members






**Carolyn Davis** is an independent consultant. She has worked in advocacy and policy in various organisations. A former member of Safe Work Australia and former 'observer' at ASEA council meetings, Ms Davis has been an independent member of ASEA's Council for a couple of years and Chair of ASEA's Research Committee. Ms Davis was a former director of the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) on occupational policy matters. She has held senior roles in OHS management in large national corporates, and she has lectured in RMIT's chemistry department in occupational health and safety. Ms Davis has a Bachelor of Science (Hons), a Diploma of Education, a Graduate Diploma in Occupational Hygiene and is a member of the Resolution Institute (alternative dispute resolution).



**Nancy Milne OAM** has extensive business experience as a non-executive director and lawyer and expertise in risk management. She was a lawyer for over 30 years specialising in insurance, corporate governance, risk management and commercial dispute resolution. Ms Milne acted for the underfunded trust created by James Hardie before and during the Jackson Special Commission of Enquiry, acted in disputes involving asbestos claims and has advised on matters relating to insurance arrangements for asbestos liability coverage. Ms Milne retired from her partnership at Clayton Utz in 2003 and continued to work as a consultant to Clayton Utz until 2014. Ms Milne is currently a director of ALC Property Group Limited, Securities Exchange Guarantee Corporation Limited (chair since 2012), Superannuation Administration Corporation and the State Insurance Regulatory Authority. Previous directorships include State Super Financial Services Australian Limited, Greenstone Limited and Novion Property Group. Ms Milne was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for services to the legal sector (particularly in insurance law) and to the community.



## Observers

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|    | <p><b>Vicki Hamilton OAM</b> is the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary of Asbestos Council of Victoria/GARDS and has been an Executive Member of the organisation since 2000. Ms Hamilton has had two of her family members pass away from asbestos-related disease - her father with asbestos lung cancer and her grandfather with asbestosis. Ms Hamilton is the support group co-ordinator for asbestos sufferers and their families which involves monthly meetings, home and hospital visits and provision of medical equipment as needed. Vicki conducts asbestos awareness sessions for Medical students, Nursing students, Allied health students, TAFE students in trades such as Painting and Decorating, plumbing, carpentry etc. Community groups &amp; work places. Current Chair of the Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Service Consumer Reference Group and current member of the Community Advisory Committee at Latrobe Regional Hospital since the group's inception in 2005. Ms Hamilton was awarded the Citizen of the Year for Latrobe City in 2005 and an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Australia Day Awards 2014 for her service to the community through support for people with asbestos related disease.</p> |
|  | <p><b>Dr Robert Walters</b> is a general medical practitioner, part-time member of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and medico-legal adviser to the Medical Indemnity Protection Society (MIPS). Dr Walters' past and present board memberships include medical member of WorkSafe Tasmania Board, chair of the Ministerial Asbestos Steering Committee; board member of Primary Health Tasmania, national chair of Australian Divisions of General Practice (2002 -05) and board member of Headspace. Dr Walters was also a state and territory representative on the first Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council, 2013 to 2016.</p> <p>He is a Colonel in the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps and has been a general practice consultant to the Surgeon General, Australian Defence Force (ADF) as well as holding positions in the ADF as a senior medical officer, Director of Medical Services (Tasmania Region), chair of the ADF General Practice Consultative Group and military compensation adviser for Tasmania.</p>   |
|  | <p><b>Dr Peter McGarry</b> has been working in the field of occupational health and hygiene for 20 years, in both the private and government sectors. He is a Certified Occupational Hygienist competent in risk management of hazards such as asbestos, hazardous chemicals, particles, noise, vibration, lead, heat stress and biological hazards. Peter is currently employed by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) in the roles of Director of the Asbestos Unit and Chief Safety Advisor Asbestos. Prior to that Peter lead the WHSQ Occupational Hygiene Unit. To ensure his own occupational hygiene practice is to a very high standard, he has completed a Diploma in Health Science, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Health and Safety, a Post-Graduate Diploma in Occupational Hygiene, and a Masters in Applied Science (Occupational Health and Safety). In 2016 he completed a PhD within the research area of methods for measuring nanoparticles and other particles emitted by nanotechnology processes, and has published a number of related papers in the scientific literature</p>  |



**Ms Simone Stevenson** is the Executive Director of the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency and brings extensive experience in public policy, program delivery and stakeholder engagement in government, not-for-profit and private sectors. Ms Stevenson has worked at senior levels of government as chief of staff and policy adviser to state and federal ministers and with WorkSafe Victoria. Ms Stevenson has over twenty years' experience in occupational health and safety, industrial relations and advocacy including advising on the establishment of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, the development of the National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness and Global Partnerships and Advocacy for The Fred Hollows Foundation.



**Ms Meredith Bryant** joined Safe Work Australia in July 2018 and is currently the acting Branch Manager of the Hazards Branch. Ms Bryant is responsible for providing policy advice on the model Work Health and Safety laws in relation to construction, plant and licensing, national workplace chemicals policy, asbestos and occupational hygiene policy. Ms Bryant represents Safe Work Australia on the Asbestos Interdepartmental Committee and the Federal Safety Commissioner's Agency Reference Group.

Ms Bryant has over 18 years' public sector experience and is a policy specialist. She has worked extensively in workplace relations having held a range of positions in the Commonwealth Department of Employment and its predecessors. Much of her work in recent years has involved a focus on migrant workers. Ms Bryant has a Bachelor of Science and Masters in Population Studies from the Australian National University.

## Chief Executive Officer



**Justine Ross** was appointed Chief Executive Officer of the agency in August 2018 for a period of five years. Prior to this, Ms Ross was Acting Group Manager of the WHS Policy Group in the Department of Jobs and Small Business, responsible for policy development and advice on Commonwealth WHS and workers' compensation, maritime workers' compensation and WHS matters, asbestos matters and workplace relations issues concerning the building industry (including on the re-establishment of the Australian Building and Construction Commission and Building Code). Ms Ross has a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University and has completed a Master in OHS at the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation at Turin University. Ms Ross is admitted to practice as a Barrister and Solicitor in the ACT.

The position of Chief Executive Officer is a statutory appointment and is made following a merit based selection process.