

Auspire Annual Review

2019



Australia Day
Council of
Western Australia

An aerial photograph of a beach scene. In the upper left, a lifeguard stand with a yellow canopy and a white base is visible. The beach is sandy with many footprints. The ocean waves are breaking along the shore on the right side. A large, semi-transparent orange triangle is overlaid on the bottom left of the image, containing the word 'Contents' in white text. At the very bottom, there are three horizontal bars in teal, yellow, and orange.

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Auspire - The Australia Day Council WA acknowledges our First Australians, the traditional custodians of country throughout Western Australia. We recognise their contribution, their continuing culture and connection to land, waters and community; and we pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging. We also respectfully advise this annual review may contain names and images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who have passed away.



Message from the Chairman

Australia Day is Australia's most important National day of celebration on our annual calendar and we're proud of the contribution that Auspire makes to that.

As Australians we have a lot to be proud of and, as our society continues its vibrant diversity of cultures welcoming its newest members through Citizenship Ceremonies, we encourage everyone to join together to reflect, respect and celebrate on Australia Day and engage with our programs and initiatives throughout the year.

It's been a busy year of consolidation and change for Auspire. We have farewelled some valued colleagues including our past Chair, Ms Kerry Batten, who for more than five years was Chair and a Board Member, and Ms Jenny Gregory leaves us after seven years of service as a valued Board Member.

Our WA Australian of the Year recipient, Dr Craig Challen SC OAM 2019, was announced as a joint national Australian of the Year recipient along with South Australia's Dr Richard Harris. Their expertise and heroic act to help rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach from a flooded cave in Thailand, made worldwide headlines and inspired our nation. I congratulate Craig on this well-deserved recognition and thank him for his ongoing commitment to sharing his story of courage and resilience, in particular to Australia's youth.

I also congratulate Noelle Martin - WA Young Australian of the Year, Prof Cheryl Kickett - WA Local Hero on receiving their awards and make a special mention of Mr F Mallard as WA Senior Australian of the Year who sadly, after a long battle with illness, passed away in August 2019.

“As Australians we have a lot to be proud of and, as our society continues its vibrant diversity of cultures welcoming its newest members through Citizenship Ceremonies, we encourage everyone to join together to reflect, respect and celebrate on Australia Day and engage with our programs and initiatives throughout the year”.

Our funding partners, pro bono supporters, strategic partners and volunteers are vital to the delivery of Auspire's suite of programs and activities. On behalf of the Board I would like to extend our sincere thanks for your continued commitment and enthusiasm. In particular we appreciate the major funding support from the Commonwealth Government through the National Australia Day Council and the Western Australian Government's Department of Premier and Cabinet and Office of Multicultural Interests.

We welcome the continued support of The Honourable Kim Beazley AC as Patron of Auspire. His generous support of our programs and initiatives is very much appreciated. My thanks also go to all of my fellow

Board Members and to the Auspire management team, led by the CEO, Morgen Lewis. We continue to build capacity and strive to enable each community to shape their own cultural diversity through the guidance and support of our initiatives.

I commend this report and look forward to the tremendous work Auspire does throughout the community in 2020.

Bradley Woods
Chairman



Message from the CEO

Auspire - Australia Day Council WA is united with its partners and communities through its dedication to building capacity for cultural and social inclusion for all Australians not only on Australian Day, but throughout the year with our community programs and initiatives.

Along the way we recognise and celebrate outstanding and extraordinary citizens who are role models for us all and inspire us to make our own contribution to creating stronger more resilient communities.

Like many small, not-for-profit operations, a little goes a long way, yet the relentless investment of time and energy to source funding, all too often becomes a distraction from the more important work of servicing our communities. Consequently, and in a brave move in late 2018, I am delighted to report the Board agreed to invest for growth with the recruitment of a dedicated Partnerships and Fundraising Manager. With only six months into a challenging fundraising environment, we are making great progress expanding our network of potential partners and funding sources.

Also in late 2018, we celebrated the launch of our new website that has dramatically improved functionality

to make it easier for our stakeholders and communities to access our services and hear about our progress, which in 2018-2019 further consolidated Auspire as a leader in the civics and citizenship space developing new ways to expand our organisation's services so that more communities can benefit.

Community engagement is a key tenet in the effort to drive social cohesion and Auspire continues to lead the way in meaningful community education and engagement through partnerships with schools, local government, community organisations and the regions throughout Western Australia. In the last financial year, our program and community engagement teams connected with more than 4,000 young people in school and university leadership forums and, in the past year alone, we have almost doubled our primary youth program Aussie of the Month, now with over 740 schools and reaching 260,000+ primary-aged students around the country.

Our Civics and Citizenship workshops and forums attracted hundreds of registrations and participants attended from over 30 different ethnic and cultural

“It’s certainly been a year of transformation, driven by a deliberate and determined focus on our strategy to drive and celebrate social and cultural inclusion and build a sense of belonging for all Australians...”

backgrounds and the introduction of our Aboriginal Cultural Competency sessions truly resonated with the wider community.

We are extremely thankful for the commitment of our partners. In particular I acknowledge major partners the National Australia Day Council, and The Government of Western Australia.

We are also grateful for the strong relationship we have with our affiliates; local council associates, pro bono supporters and strategic alliance partners whose contribution of time and in-kind support enables us to amplify our reach and effectiveness.

As we move towards 2020, I am excited about the future. We have a highly engaged, connected and experienced Board, whom I thank for their ongoing commitment and support. And to the Auspire management team, thank you for your demonstrated passion and purpose in everything you do; our projects and programs continue to go from strength to strength as a result of your hard work.

It has certainly been a year of transformation, driven by a deliberate and determined focus on our strategy to drive and celebrate social and cultural inclusion and build a sense of belonging for all Australians. I look forward to working with all our partners and associates to realise our fullest potential in our effort to amplify and inspire active and engaged citizenship in WA.

Morgen Lewis
Chief Executive Officer



Our Purpose

To inspire active citizenship. We work with schools, local government, community and individuals to promote, support and build capacity for social inclusion and community resilience.

Our Vision

For Australia to be the most socially and culturally inclusive country in the world, where everyone feels a deep sense of belonging and desire to contribute.

Our Belief

No matter where each of our personal stories began, we can all play a role in forging our solidarity, which as we become more diverse as a society, will become increasingly important for the long term welfare of all Australians.



Impact at a glance

Aussie of the Month



Impact and engagement of primary-aged children with civics and citizenship values

682 schools from

All across Australia

reaching a total number of

226,755 students

Community Citizen of the Year Awards

Recognising outstanding contribution by local people to local communities.

72 participating councils, with
award ceremonies at

82 Locations

242 awards
presented

685 online
nominations



2018-2019 Expenditure Ratios

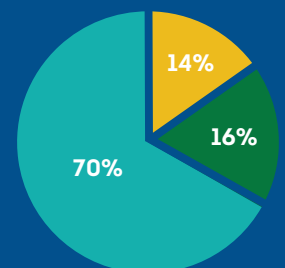
Programs, events and service delivery



Administration



Fundraising



Ambassadors

Community Support by our
Ambassadors

24 ambassadors
travelled a distance of



12,921km
to attend
28 events

Civics & Citizenship

Capacity building through
educational workshops

328  registered
participants



4 workshops
and
4 forums

Inspiring Australians Network

Student and Community
events

12 alumni engagement
opportunities

with a total of

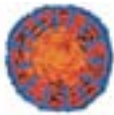


4,500
attendees

A photograph of a man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a dark jacket, speaking at a podium. The podium has a microphone and a logo that says 'CoCultural'. The background is slightly blurred, showing some greenery and a building. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle containing the title text. There are also abstract geometric shapes in the corners: a green and blue triangle in the top-left and a blue and green triangle in the bottom-left.

Strategic Partnerships

Throughout 2019 we continued to collaborate with our Strategic Alliance Partners. These alliances are based on sharing an agreed set of objectives yet operationally remaining independent organisations. As a small not-for-profit, by working together on mutually beneficial projects with our partners, we not only share the risk, but we also share the reward as we strive to achieve our goals.



ReconciliationWA

Reconciliation WA's Vision is to create a better future for our State, build on respectful relationships which foster social and economic opportunities for First Peoples and the broader Western Australian community. Their purpose is through leadership, advocacy and relationships, to be the catalyst organisation in creating opportunities with members and stakeholders to effect Reconciliation outcomes across the State.

Auspire continues to work with Reconciliation WA on joint initiatives particularly those around cultural competence, understanding and participation.



Volunteering WA makes a difference by connecting thousands of volunteers to many community organisations. They aim to build strong communities through volunteering and provide a range of resources, services and support so that people in Western Australia are aware of, and understand, the nature and scope of volunteer activity. A strategic alliance has been built with Volunteering WA providing both organisations the opportunity to work together to acknowledge and support WA's volunteer workforce. We have

shared opportunities to participate in awards selection panels based on shared knowledge of community engagement initiatives. Auspire has also formalised an agreement to provide volunteer opportunities within our organisation.



The McCusker Centre for Citizenship, through its award winning internship program, is building the capacity of future generations to foster caring, connected and socially engaged citizens.

We work with the McCusker Centre for Citizenship through support of its internship program. This year we hosted several interns who worked with us on community capacity building projects such as our Civics and Citizenship masterclasses and our Community Citizen of the Year Awards Program.



Launched in 2016, Inclusion Solutions is a social enterprise that supports the work and objectives of Inclusion WA, a not-for-profit organisation with a proud 25-year history. Social inclusion is their passion and we wholeheartedly support their belief in the importance of inclusion and the many benefits it provides individuals

and communities. These benefits touch all parts of our community, and include improved physical and mental wellness, an enhanced sense of belonging, stronger networks of social support and economic growth arising from a healthier society.



Founded in 2004, Leadership WA is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that brings together leaders from the corporate, not-for-profit and government sectors in a collaborative environment to inspire and enhance exemplary leadership. With an objective to build stronger communities through development of leadership capacities and collaborative social impact initiatives, they recognise that leaders have the potential to make a real difference and have an impressive alumni, many of whom are also members of Auspire's Inspiring Australians Network.



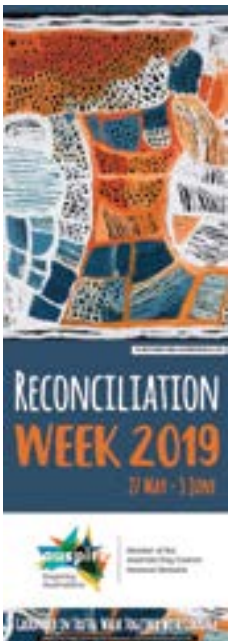
We continue our alliance with the University of WA's Centre for Social Impact and have enjoyed collaborating on initiatives throughout the year and within the Social Impact Festival.

Cultural Awareness and Reconciliation Initiatives

Reconciliation Week

Auspire's strategic alliance with Reconciliation WA is amplified during Reconciliation Week. Our involvement in the Reconciliation Banner project along St Georges Terrace authenticates our support. We were proud to attend the launch event, the Reconciliation Breakfast and participated in the Walk for Reconciliation through the city.

The Auspire team also attended an Aboriginal Cultural Awareness and Understanding session facilitated by Mr Danny Ford from Kambarang Services. Danny is a Senior Traditional Owner of Whadjuk Country (Perth metropolitan) as well as having connections to the wider Noongar Country.



Aboriginal Merchandise and Giftware Launch

We expanded our range of merchandise and now feature items designed by Aboriginal artists from across Australia. Royalties from the products directly benefit the artists and their communities. Funds raised from merchandise sales support the delivery of Auspire's capacity-building programs and initiatives.



A photograph of various Aboriginal giftware items. In the center is a white bowl filled with black seeds, resting on a colorful, patterned plate. To the left is a wooden cutting board with two red tomatoes and a sprig of rosemary. To the right is a small, patterned pouch and a small, patterned object.

Australia Day Launch with Reconciliation WA and City of Perth

Our Inspiring Australians Launch Breakfast took place on Wednesday 23rd January with over 280 guests attending. The event allowed us to take a moment to reflect upon and acknowledge the truth of our colonial history as an important part of our journey towards reconciliation and to ensure all Australians feel a sense of belonging on our National Day.

We were proud to host a range of inspirational presenters including Nyoongar Whadjuk leader Walter McGuire performing a Welcome to Country and The Honourable Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia who delivered his inaugural Australia Day Address.

All guests were encouraged to participate in the completion of a collaborative artwork piece created and facilitated by Jilalga Designs. The piece was based upon the theme of the day, Inspiring Australians, and the completed artwork was presented to Reconciliation WA.

The achievements and contribution of WA's 2019 Australian of the Year recipients were also acknowledged as they departed to Canberra for the announcement of the national awards. This important event was closed with a dance performance by Boorloo Aboriginal Cultural Experience.



“It is quite clear that these organisations and speakers have thought long and hard on indigenous issues and the need to acknowledge difficult components of settlement memory and use this event for unity building.”

— The Honourable Kim Beazley AC Governor of Western Australia

Initiatives that Recognise Inspiring Community Role Models

Australian of the Year Awards

On Tuesday 30 October 2018, Auspire presented the WA 2019 Australian of the Year Awards at Government House Ballroom. An informal reception was held in the Lady Kyle Garden.

Guests were entertained by a young group of musicians from the WA Academy of Performing Arts, the National Anthem was performed by young vocalist Tahlia Hanikeri from Presbyterian Ladies College and an uplifting and warm Welcome to Country by Ingrid Cummings.

The Hon Kim Beazley AC, Governor of WA delivered his welcome speech and then presented certificates to the 16 nominees and Awards to the four recipients.



2019 Australian of the Year (WA & National)

Dr Craig Challen,

Cave diver and rescuer

Craig Challen (WA) and Richard Harris (SA), who have been friends and cave diving partners for many years, were awarded the joint honour together as Australians of the Year on Friday 25th January in Canberra. Theirs is the first time the award has been jointly presented to two state representatives.



2019 Young Australian of the Year (WA)

Ms Noelle Martin,

Feminist, activist and law reformist



2019 Senior Australian of the Year (WA)

Mr F. Mallard,

Elder, ex-serviceman and volunteer

Mr Mallard unfortunately lost his long battle with illness during the year. Our condolences go his wife and family.



2019 Local Hero

Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker,

Marginalised community advocate

Community Citizen of the Year Awards

Community Citizen of the Year awards were presented by Local Councils at over 80 locations throughout Western Australia. Recipients continue to be honoured for their community contribution.

The Governor generously participated in launching the campaign calling for statewide nominations. Recipients from the City of Armadale and City of Swan were invited to participate and enjoyed morning tea at Government House with the Governor and Auspire team.

Nominees and recipients reflected the wonderful community contribution of so many Western Australians in a wide variety of initiatives. 2019 saw a noticeable rise in high school students being nominated and recognised for their community commitments as well as individuals from multicultural and diverse cultures.

Affiliate councils all did a wonderful job presenting the Community Citizens of the Year Awards throughout the state on Australia Day and feedback via our survey was extremely positive of the continuous improvements to the program.

Recipients featured are from the City of Albany, City of Nedlands, City of Perth and Town of Victoria Park



Aussie of the Month

Aussie of the Month is based on encouraging and recognising students for their contribution to community. It aligns to the Values for Australian Schooling and Curriculum framework and recognises students for their effort outside of academic application or sporting achievement, and instead acknowledges students who demonstrate outstanding contributions within their community.

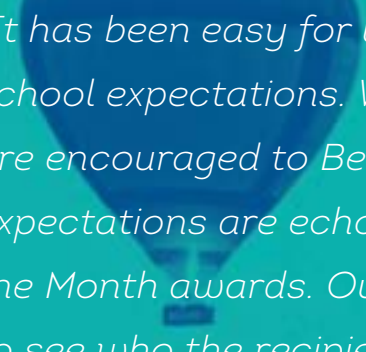
This year has realised a tremendous growth for the Aussie of the Month Program. This popular program has now expanded into seven states and territories and engagement in each of them continues to grow. Auspire participated in the Edutech National Future Schools Expo in Melbourne during Harmony Week providing an excellent opportunity for national exposure.

Auspire has worked closely with the Department of Home Affairs and included representatives from their team to attend a variety of special events featuring guest visits from Australian of the Year - Local Heroes speaking to students and school communities.

We also delivered the inaugural Inspiring Australians Aussie of the Month Student Forum in 2019. Aussie of the Month schools were invited to bring their students to hear from the Australians of the Year and ask questions to gain more knowledge. Wesley College generously supported the event by providing the venue for this exciting first forum. Federal Member for

Swan The Hon Steve Irons MP, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister opened the event, Wesley's Moorditj Mob delivered an Acknowledgement of Country complete with didgeridoo. Auspire presented Minister Irons, and Drs Challen and Harris with honorary Aussie of the Month Awards in recognition of their support of the program.





"It has been easy for us to link the Aussie of the Month Program to our school expectations. We are a Positive Behaviour School where students are encouraged to Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Your Best. These expectations are echoed through the language used for our Aussie of the Month awards. Our students wait expectantly at each Assembly to see who the recipient will be. They show a genuine delight when the winner is announced, particularly if it is one of their friends. This Program is integral in our encouragement and recognition of excellent behaviour and attitudes."

– St Cuthbert's Catholic School, Tasmania

"Thank you for extending this program to the Tasmanian schools!!! Our students have valued the recognition they have received in past programs, and it provides great excitement amongst them. Thanks again!!!"

– Penguin District School, Tasmania

Key values we seek to amplify are:

Fair Go

Not just how we apply ourselves but also in providing opportunity for all.

Mateship

A generosity of spirit and compassion for those in need.

Respect

Of self, of others, our community, and the environment.

Inclusion

Acceptance and respect of difference.

Initiatives that Inspire Leadership in Community

Auspire's series of public events feature members of the Inspiring Australians Network. These outstanding community leaders and role models continue to inspire others to help build community resilience and encourage community engagement.

Auspire Ambassadors

On Australia Day, 24 outstanding Auspire Ambassadors attended 28 events across the state covering almost 13,000 kilometres including Esperance, Geraldton, Wagin, Augusta and Broome and throughout the metropolitan area.

Ambassadors assisted local Councils with presenting Community Citizen of the Year Awards

and welcoming new Australian Citizens during their Citizenship Ceremonies. Some of our Auspire Ambassadors were also involved in radio interviews, meet and greet opportunities and were invited as special guest speakers at Civic Receptions to deliver inspiring Australia Day Addresses.



Inspiring Australians Leadership Breakfast series

Auspire delivered an Inspiring Australians Leadership Breakfast during Mental Health Week featuring WA 2018 Australian of the Year Dr Tracy Westerman. More than 200 attended the State Reception Centre in October. Empire and Curtin University sponsored the event, both providing outstanding encouragement to Dr Tracy Westerman's work. The event was also an opportunity to launch the Dr Tracy Westerman Indigenous Psychology Scholarship.




On 29 March 2019, we partnered with Murdoch University to deliver our second Inspiring Australians Leadership Breakfast for the year with Dr's Craig Challen and Richard Harris at Frasers Restaurant, Kings Park. Willie Creek Pearls also supported the event by donating jewellery to be offered as a raffle prize to support fundraising efforts.

The event brought together over 200 guests to hear their story of the Thai Cave Rescue in July 2018.

Geoff Hutchison was the emcee and facilitated a fascinating Q & A session. The Hon Steve Irons, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister whose portfolio includes the Australian of the Year Awards attended and provided the opening address.





"I really enjoyed both of the speeches, as although very different stories they were both very inspirational and interesting."

"I learned that bravery and courage not only comes from big acts but also small ones which can sometimes go unnoticed."

"The best aspects of the talks being "The fact that both the speakers were examples of everyday Australians, which we could relate to."

- Students from Inspiring Australians Student Forum

Inspiring Australians Student Forums

Auspire held the third annual Inspiring Australians Student Forum with the generous support of The University of Western Australia and Perdaman Group. Over 600 students from metropolitan and regional high schools attended to hear from Australian of the Year recipients at the Octagon Theatre.

Perdaman Chairman Vikas Rambal shared his vision to help provide opportunities to be successful and encourage students at the Forum to become future community leaders.



The current Australian of the Year WA's Dr Craig Challen and WA Young Australian of the Year Noelle Martin inspired the audience with stories of challenges they have both faced and overcome.

Australian of the Year, Dr Craig Challen was extremely generous with his time and committed to visiting several other school groups during the year. Over 1,600 students were captivated with Craig's experiences of how he and the cave diving team rescued the young soccer team and their coach from the flooded caves in Thailand. They also had the opportunity to engage during Q&A sessions at Applecross Senior High School and Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School where students from surrounding areas were invited to attend.



Initiatives that Build Capacity for Inclusion

Inspiring Australians Network

Auspire launched its Inspiring Australians Network with a sundowner at the prestigious and beautiful heritage listed Constitutional Centre in West Perth to acknowledge the outstanding support and commitment of WA Australian of the Year Alumni and Ambassadors, whose community engagement has helped deliver Auspire's inclusion strategy.

Alan Joyce, CEO of Qantas, was the guest speaker with Qantas being a longstanding and highly valued sponsor of the Australian of the Year awards.

Guests were thrilled to hear Alan talk about the role Qantas plays in our state's social, cultural and economic progress as well as his support for corporate leaders to play a role in getting behind community issues or causes, referencing in particular the inclusive marriage equality campaign.



Australian Islamic College Forum

To celebrate the start of Ramadan we visited the Australian Islamic College in Kewdale with Department of Home Affairs representatives and Prof Cheryl Kickett-Tucker 2019 WA Local Hero. It was a wonderful, uplifting event where the children sang the National Anthem, recited the Affirmation and the Head Boy and Girl read out poems about what it means to them to be Australian.



Community Civics and Citizenship Masterclasses and Forums

With an objective to promote community participation and contribution to public life this program increases the understanding of active citizenship and the importance of civic contribution. Key discussion points include the Australian Constitution, our democracy and structures of government, Australian values and defining what is meant by the term Active Citizenship. The program is delivered under a service contract for the Office of Multicultural Interests.

We promote community based leadership, achievement and contribution to the state by increasing knowledge of recognition of leadership and achievement within CaLD Communities. Key discussion points include the recognition programs that are available that inspire and promote active citizenship. Sessions also include presentations from Inspiring Australian Network members highlighting their ongoing community contribution.

Auspire promotes cultural diversity as an economic, social and cultural asset which helps create a more confident and engaged CaLD Community.

Over 300 people registered for the forums and masterclasses during 2019.



Citizenship Ceremonies

On Australian Citizenship Day, 17 September 2018, in collaboration with the Department of Home Affairs, Auspire delivered its first Citizenship Ceremony.

The Hon Kim Beazley AC, Governor of WA welcomed 22 of Australia's newest citizens from 16 countries and

their families pledging their commitment to Australia at an extremely moving citizenship ceremony – held on the UWA campus for the first time. The Lawrence Wilson Gallery was a wonderful venue for the ceremony, selected to support our UWA community partnerships agreement.



Board Members



Bradley Woods
Chairman

For 25 years Bradley has been one of Australia's leading advocates for the hotel, hospitality and tourism industry.

Bradley has been the CEO of the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) since 1998 and was previously the CEO of the AHA Tasmania and AHA National Office Government Relations Manager in Canberra.

Bradley is a Board Member of Tourism Australia, the Australian government's international tourism marketing agency and National Chair of the Commonwealth's Tourism, Travel and Hospitality IRC, responsible for Australia's tourism and hospitality industry's vocational training packages.

Bradley has a degree in International Business Relations and is also a Board member of Tourism Accommodation Australia, Chairman of Hospitality Group Training and a Board Member of Ronald McDonald House Perth.

Regarded as an industry expert in tourism, accommodation and hospitality, Bradley has led industry through major crises including the Tasmanian Tourism sector's strategic response after the Port Arthur massacre, the collapse of Ansett and responding to critical international incidents impacting on the reputation of the Australian tourism industry, such as the disappearance of MH370 and the WA gas shortage crisis.



Peter King
Deputy Chairman

Peter has spent two decades as a senior executive in prominent Australian organisations. His career spans corporate services and operations and includes expertise in leadership, business development, logistics, organisational change and operational management of multi-site, state-wide operations.

Peter has a Graduate Certificate in Business, studied at the London Business School and he has also held several Board positions within non-government organisations.

In 2008, his contributions received national recognition through the Australian Honours system. He is currently Chief Executive Officer for Ronald McDonald House Perth.



Morgen Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

Morgen is an experienced senior executive, company director, brand and marketing strategist. After serving on the Auspire Board for two years, Morgen was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director in December 2015 bringing with her over 25 years' experience in leadership roles working in marketing communications, stakeholder management, change management and business strategy development.

Prior to Auspire, Morgen held marketing director roles in the retail, higher education and utilities' sector, most recently as Group Business Director with The Brand Agency, providing strategic brand and marketing communication solutions to the corporate and not-for-profit sector.

Morgen has demonstrated success leading teams to achieve targets and has been nationally recognised for her programs and campaigns and their effectiveness in commercial and social outcomes for stakeholders in highly competitive and complex environments.

Morgen has a Bachelor of Arts degree, Postgraduate Diploma in Business, is a Certified Practicing Marketer and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



David Hinton
Finance Director

David is a finance executive with over 20 years experience in senior management roles in ASX listed companies. He was appointed to the Board in April 2018 after being appointed to the Finance and Risk Committee in October 2017. David has worked in a diverse range of industries and has specialised in the ICT space where he is currently the CFO and Company Secretary of the ASX listed global IT services provider, Empired Ltd, and prior to that the national telecommunications provider Amcom Telecommunications Ltd.



Reg Howard-Smith

Reg Howard-Smith was appointed Chief Executive of the Chamber of Minerals and Energy (CME) in November 2007. From 2002 to 2007, he was the director with responsibilities in human resources, occupational health and safety, education and training, immigration, skill shortage initiatives and finance. Immediately prior to joining CME, Reg was employed by Woodside and throughout the early to mid-1990's, he worked in a national senior management position with George Weston Foods.

In the 1980's, Reg held advocacy positions in Western Australia and Victoria. He commenced his career with BHP in Perth. He is a graduate of The University of Western Australia, with a major in economics.



Rishelle Hume

Rishelle Hume AM has over 25 years' experience in Aboriginal engagement ranging from employment, education, justice and health. She is actively involved in the Aboriginal community within the Perth region as the Chairperson of the Mandjah Boodjah Aboriginal Corporation, Co-Founder and Co-Chairperson Western Australian Aboriginal Leadership Institute, Noongar Charitable Trust Advisory Council Member, Ronald McDonald House Charities – Director, Ambassador of the EON Foundation, Ambassador of Little Athletics WA, and appointed to UNESCO as the Commissioner of Culture for Australia by Julie Bishop MP.

Rishelle has added value to Aboriginal advancement in WA by demonstrating Aboriginal leadership. Rishelle is seen as a professional figurehead to approach to engage the Aboriginal community of WA, coordinating approaches to dealing with state Aboriginal matters and is highly respected by the Aboriginal community and employers as an innovative and experienced project manager.



Michael McPhail

Michael is a Senior Consultant in KPMG's management consulting division. Working within Customer Brand Marketing Advisory, Michael helps clients improve how they serve and satisfy customers. Prior to joining KPMG, Michael worked as a marketing coordinator for commercial real estate firm CBRE.

Michael serves as Deputy Mayor of the Town of East Fremantle. First elected in 2013, he plays an active role in the local government sector and currently serves WALGA as a Deputy State Councillor.

Joining the Board in 2017, Michael contributes his marketing, organisational change and local government experience towards achieving Auspire's socially and culturally inclusive vision for Australia.



Ken Michael

Dr Ken Michael AC is known for his tireless and respected contribution to many aspects of government, business and community activity spanning more than 40 years in WA.

With a respected career in planning and engineering over several decades plus several significant leadership roles, Ken brings a wealth of experience and insight from multiple sectors.

He has served as a director and chairman on many of Western Australia's key public and private industry bodies and institutions including the WA Planning Commission, Public Service Commission, East Perth Redevelopment Authority, WA Museum Board of Trustees, The University of Western Australia Senate and many other not-for-profit and charitable organisations.

Ken has been recognised twice in the Order of Australia awards and in 2001, honoured as WA Citizen of the Year. In 2006, Ken was sworn in as the 30th Governor of Western Australia and remained in the position until 2011.



Matthew Tonts

Matthew is presently Professor of Geography and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Business, Law and Education at The University of Western Australia. He is formerly the Head of the UWA's School of Earth and Environment and Director of the Institute for Regional Development.

His professional work includes leadership in higher education, research and education on matters related to rural and regional communities, and longstanding interests in matters related to urban and regional policy.



Jenny Gregory

Retired - October 2018

Jenny Gregory AM FRHS, is Emeritus Professor of History at The University of Western Australia, after a career that included time as Head of the School of Humanities, Chair of History and Director of UWA Press. She is author of numerous publications in the fields of urban history and heritage, with a special focus on Western Australia.

Currently President of the History Council of WA, Councillor of the National Trust WA after years as Chair and President, Board Member of the WA History Foundation and Auspire - Australia Day Council of WA, she has received a number of awards for her contribution to her profession and the community.



Kerry Batten

Retired - May 2019

With a 25 year career in finance, corporate governance and risk in some of Australia's leading professional services firms and government agencies, Kerry brought a wealth of experience to the role as Chair of Auspire.

Kerry commenced her career with the federal Department of Finance in Canberra, before moving back to Western Australia to join the WA Treasury department. She subsequently built on her skills and experience in a career that includes risk consulting with KPMG, head of national risk for Wesfarmers General Insurance and principal analyst with financial services regulator APRA.

Kerry is currently Director of Corporate Services for the City of Vincent and is also actively involved in the community through her non-executive directorships. Kerry is a Chartered Accountant Fellow, Certified Practising Accountant Fellow, a Finsia Fellow and Australian Institute of Company Directors graduate. She is a non-executive director and finance Committee Chair of the East Fremantle Football Club.



Australia Day
Council of
Western Australia

The work of the Australia Day Council of Western Australia is generously supported by the following government, corporate and community partners.

Principal Partners



State Partners



Program and Event Sponsors and Partners



Strategic Partners

