



Annual Review 2025

Acknowledgement of Country

Auspire - 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.



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From the Chair

It is my privilege to present Auspire – Australia Day Council WA's 2025 Annual Review. As we reflect on a year defined by community connection and celebration, we acknowledge both our achievements and the broader events that have shaped Australia and the world.

This year reaffirmed the spirit of Australia Day. The Australian Government's investment of more than \$10 million supported over 750 inclusive community events nationwide for Australia Day 2025, underscoring our shared commitment to inclusivity, reconciliation, and national unity. I am proud of the meaningful role our organisation played in Western Australia in the lead-up to and on our national day.

A highlight of every year is the Western Australian – Australian of the Year Awards ceremony, where we recognise individuals who exemplify service, innovation and leadership. It is an evening that inspires and resonates long after the announcements.

In 2025, we honoured:

- Dianne and Ian Haggerty, WA Australians of the Year, Wheatbelt farmers pioneering natural, sustainable agricultural practices that benefit both the environment and community.
- Brother Olly Pickett, WA Senior Australian of the Year, whose leadership of more than 250 volunteers at Wheelchairs for Kids enables mobility for children living with disability.
- Jack Anderson, WA Young Australian of the Year, for producing and supplying textbooks to schools in low socio-economic areas, expanding educational opportunity.
- Dr Jacinta Vu, WA Local Hero, for building Healing Smiles, providing essential oral healthcare to women who have experienced family and domestic violence.

We are fortunate to live in a country that values education, health, safety, opportunity, natural beauty, and diversity, and where individuals actively contribute to the common good. While global unrest and conflict remind us of

Australia's relative advantages, we see countless examples of people stepping forward to help others, often in the midst of their own adversity.

This Annual Review documents our programs and partnerships that support heritage, people and communities. It also reflects the wider context in which we operate. Our collective capacity to foster connection, build resilience, and celebrate identity amid global and local challenges is testament to Western Australia's strength and the vitality of our communities.

I extend my sincere thanks to the National Australia Day Council's executive leadership and Board for the ongoing support and collaboration. Also to our alumni, ambassadors, partners and staff. Your commitment continues to bring Auspire's mission to life and upholds the enduring values of unity, respect, and national pride.

As you read this Review, I invite you to recognise our shared achievements and the forces shaping our work. May it renew our commitment to an inclusive and optimistic future.

Bradley Woods
Chair



From the CEO

As I reflect on the past year, I am incredibly proud of the way Auspire has continued to grow its impact in building connections and collective influence, as we deliver on our purpose to acknowledge and celebrate Australia's engaged community members, problem solvers and positive change makers who inspire active citizenship in others.

This year, we navigated a complex and evolving social landscape, one where conversations about national identity, reconciliation and unity are more important than ever. Through it all, Auspire remained committed to providing platforms for respectful dialogue, recognition of outstanding Australians, and community engagement that reflects the values we share as a nation.

Our recognition programs have offered us many highlights throughout the year, from the Community Citizen of the Year Awards' ceremonies that honour outstanding community members, through to the delighted faces of Aussie of the Month recipients in primary schools throughout Australia. Getting to meet all the incredible finalists and recipients of the Australian of the Year Awards was, as always, a highlight.

The level of participation and strong engagement across all of our Award programs reinforce just how important they are, and it is an honour to recognise the remarkable individuals who lead with action, compassion and innovation, from within their schools, local communities, nationwide and beyond.

We had the tremendous privilege to host not one, but *two* Australian of the Year Tours of Honour this year. We shared the important messages and inspiring stories of 2024 Australians of the Year, Professors Georgina Long and Richard Scolyer, and 2025 Australian of the Year, Neale Daniher, across a range of thought-leadership events with diverse audiences. We also presented two online Lunch with Leaders with Australian of the Year Alumni, having those important conversations that aligned with Mental Health Week and Harmony Week.

During 2025, we also expanded and evolved our community development programs, collaborated on innovative projects, strengthened our partnerships with First Nations' and culturally and linguistically diverse leaders, and continued to support people to listen, learn and reflect on the experiences and perspectives of others. These efforts are central to our role in shaping a national identity we can be proud of – that speaks truth to our history, values our diversity, and engenders a sense of belonging for all Australians.

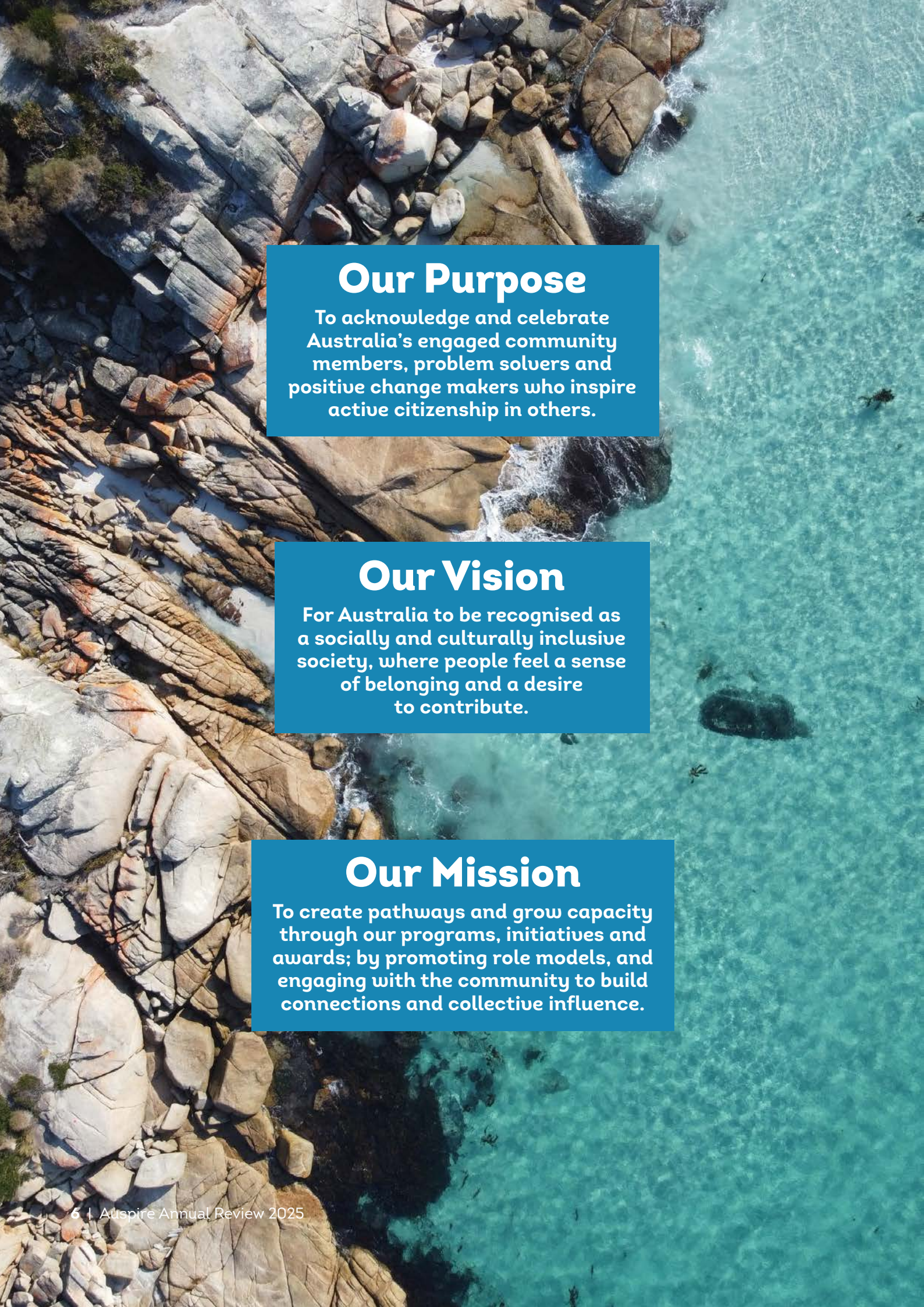
While Auspire's commitment to our mission is year-round, Australia Day continues to be a focal point for national dialogue. This year, we continued to ensure that Australia Day is marked with meaning, respect and reflection. As such, our Australia Day activities focused on cultural sharing, with a Smoking Ceremony and community BBQ breakfast in Victoria Gardens in the morning, followed by First Nations' storytelling within the popular Film Dome at Langley Park throughout the afternoon.

The achievements outlined in this review would not be possible without the ongoing support of the National Australia Day Council and the tireless efforts of our staff, Board, Ambassadors and program partners. Their commitment and support fuels our mission, and their belief in the power of inclusive, active citizenship is what drives us forward. And to anyone who has attended one of our events or workshops – your engagement is so important and we hope you felt inspired long after the occasion.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on creating opportunities where all Australians feel motivated to think about and act on the role that they play in the story of Australia. We remain committed to inspiring changemakers, building stronger communities, and celebrating the best of who we are. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Morgen Lewis
Chief Executive Officer



An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. On the left, there are large, light-colored rock formations with some sparse vegetation. To the right, the water is a vibrant turquoise color, with white foam from waves crashing against the rocks. The overall scene is bright and scenic.

Our Purpose

To acknowledge and celebrate Australia's engaged community members, problem solvers and positive change makers who inspire active citizenship in others.

Our Vision

For Australia to be recognised as a socially and culturally inclusive society, where people feel a sense of belonging and a desire to contribute.

Our Mission

To create pathways and grow capacity through our programs, initiatives and awards; by promoting role models, and engaging with the community to build connections and collective influence.

Strategic Alliances

Throughout the year, we collaborate with our Strategic Alliance Partners on various initiatives and events. These continuing and new relationships are mutually beneficial by enabling us all to achieve our respective goals, while allowing us to remain operationally independent.



The WA Local Government Association works for local government in Western Australia. The industry body supports WA's 139 local governments and negotiates service agreements for the sector.



ReconciliationWA

Reconciliation WA's vision is to create a better future for our State, built on respectful relationships which foster social and economic opportunities for First Peoples and the broader Western Australian community.



The Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry is our State's voice on issues affecting WA business. We support its vision to make WA and Australia the best place to live and do business.



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



The Western Australian Council of Social Service drives social change with communities through collective action and policy formulation, strengthening community services and influencing decision makers to ensure justice and equity.



Council of the Ageing WA is the peak body for older people in Western Australia, working towards an inclusive society in which older people can flourish, by valuing their contribution and lived experience, and advancing their rights, needs and interests.



Leadership WA is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that brings together leaders in a collaborative environment to inspire and enhance exemplary leadership, with an objective to build stronger communities through development of leadership capacities and social impact initiatives.



The Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia looks to provide a voice and advocacy for the non-government youth sector and young people, by focusing on their varied needs at local, State and Federal Government level and enhancing positive community attitudes towards young people.



Volunteering WA aims to build strong communities through volunteering and provides 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.



The United Nations Association of Australia WA Division works to inform, inspire and engage Western Australian communities on the activity, goals and values of the United Nations to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.



Impact at a glance



Aussie of the Month

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

1,651 schools nationally **554,725** students engaged **16,600+** awards presented

Community Citizen of the Year Awards

68 participating councils

238 awards presented

870+ online nominations



Auspire Ambassadors

Community Support
by our Ambassadors

22 Ambassadors travelled
a collective distance of



5,420km
to attend

28 community
events

Building Capacity for Cultural Diversity and Inclusion



766 registered
participants

26 workshops

Inspiring Australians Events

Corporate, community and
youth events

12 events and
activations

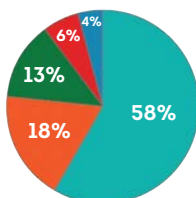


over
5,700
attendees

Income Sources & Expenditure

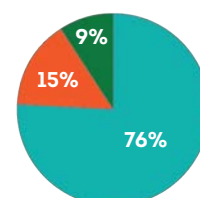
2024 - 2025 Income

Grants
Service Agreements
Sales and Fundraising
Sponsorships
Subscription Fees



2024 - 2025 Expenditure

Programs and Services
Administration
Fundraising



Developing community capacity for cultural diversity and inclusion

Australia Day Grants Program

The national messaging and mission of Australia Day is 'Reflect. Respect. Celebrate', to foster community spirit and inclusivity on our national day. To support local government and community groups with hosting an event that provided the public with an opportunity to do this on Australia Day 2025, over \$4.5 million in Federal funding via the National Australia Day Council was made available with the Australia Day Community Events Grant Program.

More than 80 local governments and community groups throughout Western Australia applied for a grant of up to \$15,000 each, to assist in the delivery of an event that would reflect on our history, respect our many cultures, and celebrate the opportunities that being Australian gives us. Events incorporated cultural dance and live music, Australian and international cuisine, Smoking Ceremonies, Award ceremonies and much more.



Australia Day Smoking Ceremony

Auspire was at Victoria Gardens in East Perth on the morning of Australia Day, to host a traditional cultural Smoking Ceremony.

The event included a Welcome to Country delivered by Noongar leader, Barry Winmar, and music and dance performed by Corroboree for Life.

Following the warm and inclusive traditional cultural welcome, people enjoyed a BBQ Breakfast cooked and served up by the Rotary Club of Heirrisson.



Reflect Respect Celebrate Australia Day Film Dome

More than 70,000 people celebrated Australia Day at Langley Park in Perth city. Auspire's Film Dome was one of the largest activations, with entertaining and inspiring films showing on rotation throughout the afternoon. These included 'Koora, Koora: A Long Long Time Ago', 'Six Noongar Seasons' courtesy of the Royal Agricultural Society of WA, 'The Story of Us', and 'Australian Values' thanks to the Department of Home Affairs. At the commencement of each film cycle, a stunning Acknowledgement of Country featuring Australian of the Year Alumni set the scene.

After watching the films, theatre-goers collected a bag full of Australia Day merchandise goodies. There was also a roaming photo booth, and stilt walkers adorning the green and gold colours of the native Australian wattle.

Hungry visitors could tuck into a range of international cuisine within the Reflect Respect Celebrate Eat Zone, which featured decorated entryways, bunting on the food vans, and napkins and toothpicks donning the Australian flag.



Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Workshops

To close the knowledge gap of First Nations' history, cultures, experiences and perspectives, Auspire continued throughout the year to deliver our Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Workshops, offering both public and private sessions in person and online.

During the year, we introduced a follow-up workshop built around turning awareness into understanding. Developed in collaboration with our Aboriginal Cultural Advisors, this advanced session is offered exclusively to those who have experienced our introductory workshop, and incorporates practical exercises to turn apathy into empathy.



Multicultural Leadership Program

Auspire's Multicultural Leadership Program returned for a fourth year with 16 new participants. The program, co-designed in partnership with the Office of Multicultural Interests and representatives from the multicultural community, provides people from culturally and

linguistically diverse backgrounds with leadership development opportunities. These include intercultural competency workshops, exclusive round tables with guest speakers, and networking events with our Inspiring Australians' Network of Ambassadors and Awards' alumni.



Australia's Democracy and You Workshops

Auspire's community workshops on civics and citizenship underwent a rebrand this year, to strengthen the understanding of the content and purpose.

Now known as Australia's Democracy and You, these interactive workshops aim to support new citizens by providing an overview of active citizenship, the Australian Constitution, our democratic values, the different roles and responsibilities of our three levels of government, Australian citizens' right to vote, and how to make their vote count.

These unique sessions have been developed in collaboration with The Constitutional Centre of Western Australia and the Western Australian Electoral Commission.

Local government and culturally and linguistically diverse community organisations were the key beneficiaries, but the workshops can be tailored to refresh knowledge and understanding for the broader community.



Intercultural Diversity and Inclusion Workshop

In October 2024, Auspire presented a Diversity and Inclusion workshop aimed at empowering culturally diverse teams through intercultural awareness, competency and understanding.

Facilitated by intercultural consultant, Rika Asaoka, the interactive public workshop involved practical activities and exercises to increase awareness and understanding of how culture influences communication styles, perspectives and values, in order to enhance the power of cultural diversity within a team.



Fostering thought leadership that helps shape our national identity

Australia Day Launch

On 21 January, Auspire launched Australia Day 2025 activities in Western Australia and celebrated the WA 2025 Australian of the Year recipients, before they departed for the national Awards' ceremony in Canberra.

During a balmy summer evening in the Constitutional Centre of Western Australia courtyard, the event included a Welcome to Country by Auspire Board Member, Barry Winmar, followed by an address from Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Patrick Gorman MP.

In his address, Mr Gorman took inspiration from the venue, to relate each recipient to a particular section in the Australian Constitution, inspiring active citizenship and our civic responsibilities as citizens. To wrap up the formalities, the WA 2025 Australians of the Year formed a panel to talk about their inspiring, innovative and empowering contributions, which was a great warm up in preparation for their time in Canberra.



Australia Day Ambassadors

Auspire's Australia Day Ambassadors volunteer their time to visit local communities all around Western Australia, to help celebrate and emphasise the message of Reflect Respect Celebrate on Australia Day. A popular feature of local community events hosted by Local Government, Ambassadors share their inspiring stories and participate in activities throughout the day.

In 2025, 22 Ambassadors travelled across the state to towns and cities on Australia Day.

As part of the visits, activities included keynote speeches, appearing on local radio, judging puppy parades and announcing the local council Australia Day Community Citizen of the Year Awards.

All Ambassadors were given the opportunity to attend media training prior to their appearances, with speaker and coach, Carmen Braidwood, thanks to Auspire's partnership with Channel 9.



2024 Australian of the Year WA Tour of Honour with Professors Georgina Long and Richard Scolyer

In August 2024, Auspire hosted 2024 Australians of the Year, Professors Georgina Long and Richard Scolyer, on a WA Tour of Honour. In partnership with Cancer Council WA and the WA Education Department, we curated a series of events and initiatives that promoted the Professors' important message regarding melanoma awareness, prevention and treatment.

The tour included an Inspiring Australians' Breakfast at the State Reception Centre in Kings Park, with the WA community invited to hear about the Professors' work as co-medical directors of Melanoma Institute Australia, and Professor Scolyer's personal journey with brain cancer. The event was emceed by 6PR Perth's Oliver Peterson, with words from Cancer Council WA CEO, Ashley Reid, and a video message from The Honourable Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Innovation, Science and Medical Research. A number of Australian of the Year Alumni were in attendance including WA 2024 Young Australian of the Year, Kate Kirwin; WA 2024 Local Hero, Nick Hudson; and 2023 Australia's Local Hero, Amar Singh.



Immediately following the breakfast, the Professors were transported to Bob Hawke College in Subiaco, to share their expertise and guidance with high school students from across the state. The Youth Forum began with an interview led by the WA Department of Education's, Marie-Anne Keeffe, followed by questions from the students on immunotherapy, clinical trials and the Professors' global impact.

On their final night, Auspire presented a Sundowner with Professors Long and Scolyer, attended by our Inspiring Australians' Network of Alumni and Ambassadors. Hosted at the Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation (CERI) thanks to WA 2024 Senior Australian of the Year, Charlie Bass, this event provided an opportunity for intimate conversation with the Professors on their incredible Australian of the Year journey.

During their time in Western Australia, the Professors were also special guest speakers at a Health Professional Evening presented by Cancer Council WA, and met with Forrest Research Foundation Scholars, all arranged by Auspire.



2025 Australian of the Year WA Tour of Honour with Neale Daniher

Auspire hosted 2025 Australian of the Year, Neale Daniher, in Perth in April 2025. We delivered a series of events and initiatives that shared Neale's message to 'FightMND', a call he has been dedicated to since being diagnosed with motor neurone disease in 2013. Throughout the week, we collaborated with community and funding partners including WA All Abilities Football Association; WA Department of Sport and Recreation; and WA Department of Education.

A fitting launch to Neale's WA visit, in the lead up to Fremantle Football Club's Purple Hands round, WA football united to cross Matagarup Bridge 'Hand in Hand' to highlight disability inclusion. Neale led The Crossing, joined by a 1,000-strong crowd, which included representatives from Government, WA Football, Starkick community clubs and all people passionate about disability inclusion in sport.



Another remarkable event as part of Neale's tour was an Inspiring Australians' Lunch at Optus Stadium, attended by hundreds of guests. 'Beyond the Boundary Line' featured a keynote presentation from Neale, pre-recorded using innovative AI voice simulation technology. He was then joined on stage by his daughter, Bec Daniher, for a fireside chat - sharing stories about their family, and Neale's profound influence and impact on research, care and clinical trial progress since his MND diagnosis and the launch of FightMND.

The event was emceed by Auspire Ambassador, Nine News' Tracy Vo, and featured a Welcome to Country from Barry Winmar, with an address from Marcelyn Nicolaou, Executive Director Sport and Recreation from the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport. The Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister, the Honourable Patrick Gorman MP, also attended and congratulated Neale on his extraordinary achievements.



An additional highlight of the 2025 Australian of the Year Tour of Honour, was with students from AFL Specialist Sports Schools, who had the opportunity to hear from Neale at a Youth Leadership Forum at Wanneroo Secondary School. More than 300 students were captivated by Neale's keynote, which centred around the importance of resilience, with young people in mind. Students were able to submit questions the week before the event, so Neale could prepare answers in advance.

During Neale's visit, Auspire also coordinated a meeting with the Premier of Western Australia, the Honourable Roger Cook MLA, and an afternoon tea with His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, and Mrs Dawson at Government House.



Lunch with Leaders' Series

To provide access to inspiring Australians who have been recognised in the Australian of the Year Awards, Auspire hosted two episodes of Lunch with Leaders, an online series that delves into issues of national importance, highlighted by our guest speakers and tuned into by a national audience.

On World Mental Health Day in October 2024, WA 2024 Local Hero and founder of The Push-Up Challenge, Nick Hudson, shared how he used his personal mental health struggles as motivation to launch the charity that now supports millions of others around the country with their own mental health.

In the following March, 2025 Australian of the Year Local Hero recipients, Vanessa Brettell and Hannah Costello, joined us during Harmony Week, to discuss the beginnings of their social enterprise, Café Stepping Stone, and how it has since provided financial security and community to women from migrant and refugee backgrounds.



Visit to 2025 Senior Australian of the Year, Brother Olly Pickett

In February, Auspire visited 2025 Senior Australian of the Year, Brother Olly Pickett, at the Wheelchairs for Kids factory in Wangara, where he and some fellow 250 volunteers make and ship thousands of wheelchairs all over the world every year.

Hosted by Wheelchairs for Kids CEO, Greg Hebble, the Auspire team joined the day's volunteers for morning tea, followed by a tour of the factory, bringing to life each step of the production that gives children living with a disability the gift of mobility.



WA Local Hero finalist visits the Department of Home Affairs

For International Day of People with Disability 2024, we organised for Auspire Ambassador, 2024 Community Citizen of the Year (City of Stirling) and WA 2025 Australian of the Year Local Hero category finalist, Rob Geersen, to visit the WA team of the Australian Department of Home Affairs, sponsor of the Local Hero category in the Australian of the Year Awards.

As founder of Starkick All Abilities – a football program dedicated to making sports more inclusive – Rob shared his unwavering commitment to improving the lives and experiences of children living with a disability. He told his family's personal story and highlighted the impact we each can have to make our communities more inclusive and welcoming for everyone.



Expanding reach and engagement with our Awards

Australian of the Year Awards

Every year, the Australian of the Year Awards recognise inspiring Australians around the country who contribute to our nation and create positive change for the benefit of all others. The program spotlights role models, celebrates their achievements, and demonstrates the true spirit of what it means to be Australian.

Those recognised are nominated by the public – by individuals who admire them or have felt their impact – so that we may acknowledge their contributions, showcase their influence, and inspire others to consider how they too can make a difference.

As the organisation responsible for the Awards in Western Australia, Auspire has the job of co-ordinating the program, from the nominations' campaign to the selection process, plus the honour of announcing the WA 2025 Australians of the Year at a prestigious ceremony. This year, this was at Government House in Perth on 12 November 2024. The evening began with an al fresco welcome reception, followed by the Awards' Ceremony in the Ballroom, which was emceed by ABC Radio's Nadia Mitsopoulos.

Following a moving Welcome to Country, guests joined in to sing the Australian National Anthem, after which the four finalists in each category were called to the stage to receive their certificates and have their photo taken with His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia.

The Governor announced the 2025 Australians of the Year for Western Australia, including WA 2025 Australians of the

Year, Dianne and Ian Haggerty, for their pioneering approach to agriculture in the Wheatbelt; WA 2025 Senior Australian of the Year, Brother Olly Pickett, for leading 250 volunteers who give children around the world the gift of movement through Wheelchairs for Kids; WA 2025 Young Australian of the Year, Jack Anderson, who has made educational textbooks more accessible with Elucidate Education; and WA 2025 Local Hero, Jacinta Vu, clinical director at Healing Smiles, which provides oral and dental care to women who have experienced domestic violence.

Since 1960, the Australian of the Year Awards have provided a platform to recognise the outstanding contributions of Australia's finest citizens, and has provoked spirited debate on the achievements that are most worthy of recognition.

Western Australian named national recipient in Canberra

In January, the four WA recipients met with fellow state and territory recipients in Canberra for the national Awards' ceremony, presented by Australia's Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, on the eve of Australia Day. After a jam-packed schedule of activities over four days, the national recipients were announced, including Brother Olly Pickett as 2025 Senior Australian of the Year.

Returning to WA, Olly has had an extraordinary year promoting the value of volunteering and the global impact of Wheelchairs for Kids.



Community Citizen of the Year Awards

The Community Citizen of the Year Awards recognise and inspire contribution to community, by celebrating people who go above and beyond for their local area. The Awards are presented in partnership with Auspire Local Government member councils, with award presentations typically held on Australia Day.

This year, 68 councils participated in the Awards throughout WA, with 238 awards presented from more than 870 nominations. The people, groups and events recognised contribute to a variety of community causes including youth engagement and development, sports and recreation, mental health, arts and culture, and education.



Aussie of the Month Awards

For more than 25 years, the Aussie of the Month program has been encouraging and celebrating active citizenship in young Australians, by promoting our shared values of fair go, mateship, respect and inclusion, and supporting the Civics and Citizenship Curriculum. The program is free to join and accessible to all primary schools in Australia.

The number of schools registered in the national program continues to grow each year, currently reaching more than 554,000 students across Australia.

As the younger sibling to the Australian of the Year Awards, schools have the opportunity to engage with Australian of the Year alumni through face-to-face and virtual visits. During the year, there were six in-person visits and the library of virtual visits has increased to 26 videos.

To mark a 20-year partnership between Aussie of the Month and Pilot Pen Australia, we tracked down Aussie of the Month alumni from 20 years ago, interviewing them on their memories of receiving the award, the importance of the award, and how they continue to contribute to their communities as adults today. For a second year, we teamed up with Pilot Pen Australia on a competition that gave schools the chance to win 20 stationery hampers valued at \$1,000 each.

Another achievement during the program year, we developed and published a new Aussie of the Month website to enhance the user experience and increase accessibility as the program continues to grow.



Community development and engagement

Diversity and Innovation Techfest 2025

In March 2025, Auspire supported Diversity and Innovation Techfest 2025, an event that champions representation by exploring and celebrating entrepreneurs who are leading the way in sustainable and inclusive business.

Hundreds of people from more than 25 nationalities attended to foster connections, share insights and discuss strategies, inside Perth Town Hall. Auspire CEO,

Morgen Lewis, led the day as emcee, facilitating keynote speeches from Dr Eunice Sari of Marginpreneur; 2015 WA Australian of the Year, Professor Lyn Beazley; and Camilla Galbraith from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. There was also a panel discussion on the power and strength of diverse women in shaping Australia's future business landscape.



Diversity and Inclusion Awards

In the lead-up to the 2024 Diversity and Inclusion Awards, Auspire assisted the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA with a number of our Leadership Program Graduates, Multicultural Advisory Group members and Ambassadors serving as judges for the Awards.

In July 2024, Auspire CEO, Morgen Lewis, attended the Awards' ceremony with our network who gave their time to recognise businesses that are leading the way in diversity and inclusion initiatives.



Multicultural Framework Review

Auspire contributed to and provided feedback on the 2024 Multicultural Framework Review – the first major examination into Australia's multiculturalism.

The review consisted of 216 public consultations and 796 public submissions, to inform the report, 'Towards Fairness – A multicultural Australia for all', to Government.

The report was published with 29 recommendations on how to sustain and progress a successful and fair multicultural Australia. Auspire shared the report on our website at the time of its release.



Racism. It Stops With Me

As an official supporter of the Australian Human Rights Commission's 'Racism. It Stops With Me' campaign, throughout the year, Auspire shared tools and resources to help combat racism in Australia.

This included factsheets on Myths and Misconceptions about racism, how they occurred and how they continue to influence.

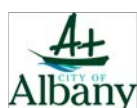


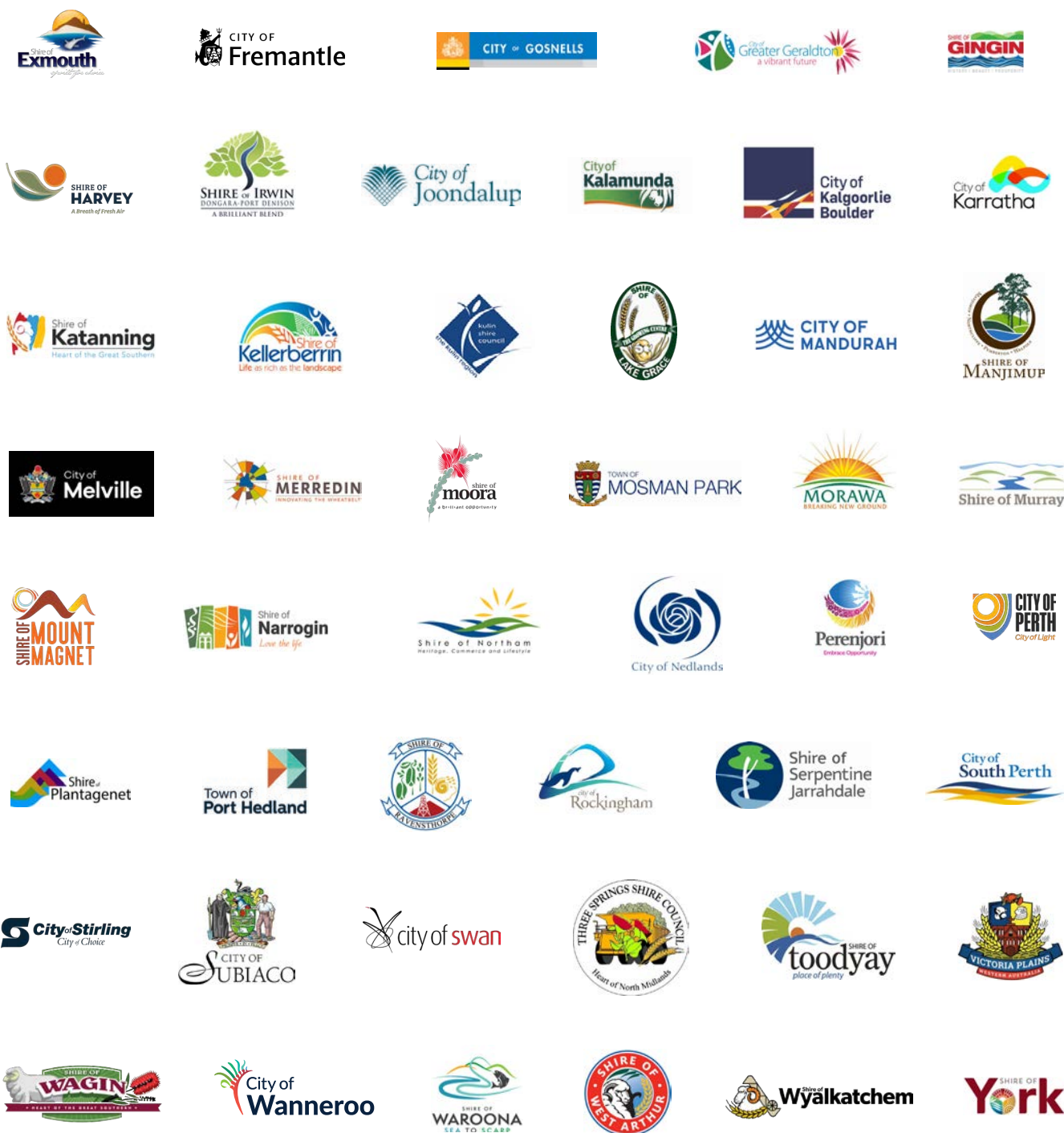
Our Members

Platinum



Gold

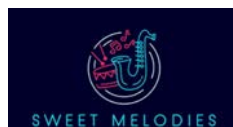




Silver



Associate - Community



Associate - Individual

Abid Imam

Asha Bhat

Ashlee Harrison

Ashleigh Dickson

Britta Regli-von Ungern-Sternberg

Catrina Aniere

Conrad Liveris

Craig Challen

Craig Hollywood

Cristiana Anca

Darryl Davenport

Dean Morris

Diane Avice

Fatima Faqiri

Grace Mugabe

Dianne Haggerty

Ian Haggerty

Holly-ann Martin

Jacinta Vu

Jack Anderson

Janine Wood

Jawaria Mahmood

Jeffrey Effendi

Jennifer Ball

John Newnham

Julian Pace

Katarzyna Stawarz

Kendall Whyte

Kenneth Gibbons

Kieran Mulroney

Krista Dunstan

Lueth Garang

Maryann Tsai

Michael Elwan

Nahrel Dallywater

Naveed Ahmed

Nick Hudson

Nilesh Makwana

Paul Litherland

Pedus Eweama

Priya Cooper

Ralph Martins

Rishelle Hume

Robert Geersen

Samuel Thomas

Sandy Chong

Stephanie Jackson

Suzy Urbaniak

Syeda Maisara Muzaffar

Thea Kurniawan

Theresa Kwok

Vincenzo Garreffa

Yogesana Kanagasingam

Yu Dong

Our Partners

Principal Partners Australian of the Year Awards (WA)



ASSISTED BY THE
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Program and Event Partners



State Supporters



Leadership & Governance



Bradley Woods

Chair

For over 30 years, Bradley has been one of Australia's leading advocates for protecting jobs and businesses in the hotel, hospitality

and tourism industries. Bradley has been the CEO of the Australian Hotels Association (AHA) since 1998. Bradley is also Chair of Business Events Perth, Chair of Hospitality Group Training and a founding Board Member of mental health charity Healthy Mind Menu Inc. and is a former Board Member of Tourism Australia.

Bradley has a degree in International Business Relations and was founding President of the United Nations Youth Association Australia (Queensland).



Peter King

Deputy Chair

Peter is the Chief Executive Officer of Ronald McDonald House Charities WA with over 30 years leadership experience across Western

Australia's community and not-for-profit sector. He has held several Board positions within non-government organisations and, in 2008, his contributions to community received national recognition through the Australian Honours system.

Peter is widely regarded for his leadership in uniting business, government and not-for-profit sectors in shared initiatives and outcomes for the wider WA community.

Peter has a Graduate Certificate in Business, studied at the London Business School and Stanford University.



David Hinton

Finance Director

David has over 25 years of experience in senior financial management and governance roles and was appointed to the Auspire

Board in April 2018.

He has worked in a diverse range of industries both in Australia and overseas and has specialised in the ICT space with roles including 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.

David is a Non-Executive Director of HeraMED Limited, a data and technology company focused on maternity care and digital women's health. He is also a member of the Audit Committee of the Australian Institute of Marine Science. David is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



Morgen Lewis

Chief Executive Officer

Morgen was appointed Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director in December 2015 bringing with her over 25 years' experience

in leadership roles across Marketing Communications, Stakeholder Management, Change Management and Business Strategy Development.

Prior to her appointment as CEO, Morgen had served on the Auspire Board for two years and was a Partner and Group Business Director with The Brand Agency, providing strategic marketing and communication solutions to clients across diverse sectors including Government, Resources, Finance, Not-for-Profit, Health and Higher Education.

Morgen has a bachelor's degree in Arts and a Post Graduate Diploma in Business. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a McKinsey Executive Leadership Program alumna.



Clive Bingwa

Clive Bingwa has been a prominent face in the WA media landscape for more than 25 years.

As Managing Director of Nine Entertainment in Perth, Clive has

been instrumental in ushering in the new era of cooperation and cross-promotion of Nine brands (Nine, Nine News, 6PR, WAtoday, Stan and Domain).

Prior to taking the role at Nine, Clive was Managing Director of Initiative Media and IPG Media Brands Perth, and a partner at 303LOWE, which he was instrumental in growing from a Perth office of 20 staff, to Australia's largest independent advertising agency.

Clive has been on the Board for Triathlon WA, held advisory roles with Pentanet and Murdoch Business School, and has fundraised for the Royal Flying Doctors Service, Ronald McDonald House and Youth Focus. In 2023, Clive was named Campaign Brief's ad person of the year. He also became a non-executive board member with the Western Force and is Chair of the Aquinas School Advisory Council.



Jeremy Chetty

Jeremy Chetty is the Co-Founder of Student Edge – a free student membership community. The student turned entrepreneur conceived the idea with his friends

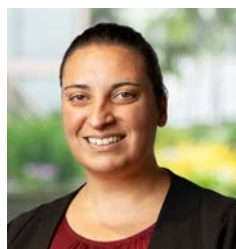
while they were at Murdoch University 10 years ago.

Today it has over 1.4 million members, 100+ educational institutions and a growing list of sponsors. He currently serves as the Chief Evangelist.

The South African born entrepreneur is also active in the startup community. He is currently the Entrepreneur in Residence at Murdoch University, Stephen Michael Foundation, Spacecubed, and Switch Living – advising, motivating and educating students on how to turn an idea into a business.

He also established the Young Entrepreneurs Showcase where he personally mentors and coaches hundreds of young business owners in WA.

Passionate about helping the community, Jeremy has also held previous advisory positions with CQU University, Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship, Office of Multicultural Interests, Australian Airforce Cadets and Willetton SHS.



Lenda Oshalem

(Retired October 2024)

Lenda is the Executive Director of Advocacy and Engagement at Minderoo Foundation.

Prior to working at Minderoo,

Lenda was a Partner and National Campaigns Director at SEC Newgate, Australia's largest full-service strategic communications firm. Lenda has worked at senior levels of government and politics for over a decade across the country, including as the Assistant State Campaign Director for WA Labor from 2012 to 2017.

Lenda is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is also Deputy Chair of the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and Chair of Minderoo Pictures. Lenda has a passion for advocacy, campaigning, community engagement and organising, and capacity building.



Meg Coffey

Meg Coffey is an internationally recognised social media and digital marketing strategist, hailing from Texas and now proudly based in Australia. Known as the

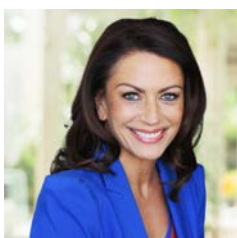
'Texstralian,' Meg combines her exceptional work ethic, calculated risk-taking, and remarkable communication skills to lead the way in digital empowerment.

With a deep understanding of how digital marketing works in today's business landscape, Meg's expertise extends far beyond the hospitality and tourism sectors she works with through her agency Coffey & Tea. She specialises in transforming the fear of social media into confidence and excitement about leveraging technology for tangible results.

Starting with SMPPerth in 2013, Meg established WA's first social media resource and community. It's where marketing novices and experts alike came for digital and social marketing news, workshops, masterclasses, and get-togethers. In 2018, it became the launch pad for State of Social, now APAC's largest digital marketing conference.

Meg actively contributes to the digital marketing community as a sought-after speaker, lecturer and panellist. Her thought leadership has led to judging industry awards and being recognised as one of Australia's Top 50 Small Business Leaders in 2017. Notably, Meg has also been finalist for Campaign Brief's prestigious Ad Person of the Year award multiple times.

You can catch Meg sharing her insights on esteemed media such as the BBC, ABC, Triple M Radio, Channel 7 and various programs across Australia.



Rabia Siddique

Rabia Siddique joined the Auspire Board in April 2020, bringing with her more than three decades of global experience as an international humanitarian and

criminal lawyer, former British Army officer, hostage survivor, best-selling author, media commentator, and

leadership consultant. She was awarded a Queen's Commendation for her humanitarian work in Iraq and was a WA Finalist in the 2016 Australian of the Year Awards.

Rabia has worked with governments, militaries, and organisations worldwide, advocating for justice, equality, and human rights. She is also a highly sought-after keynote speaker and trusted advisor to leaders across sectors, specialising in building trust, resilience, psychological safety, and values-based cultures. Her passion for social impact and her commitment to empowering communities align strongly with Auspire's vision of inspiring and enabling active citizenship.



Ken Michael

(Retired June 2025)

For over 40 years, Dr Ken Michael has been known for his tireless and respected contribution to many aspects of government, business

and the community. With an extensive career in planning and engineering over several decades supported by several significant leadership roles, Dr Michael brings a wealth of experience and insight from multiple sectors.

He has served on a number of authorities, including the WA Planning Commission, Main Roads WA, Public Service Commission, East Perth Redevelopment Authority, WA Museum Board of Trustees, The University of Western Australia Senate, the Western Australian Cricket Association and many other not-for-profit and charitable organisations.

Dr Michael was also Chair of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research and Chair of Perth Modern School for a number of years. He is currently President of the National Trust of Western Australia.

In 2006, Dr Michael was sworn in as the 30th Governor of Western Australia, a position he held until 2011. He has also received a number of awards, including being recognised as a Companion of the Order of Australia.



Nick Sloan

Nick Sloan has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) since 2019. Prior to joining WALGA, Nick was

the Executive Director, Planning and Service Delivery at the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

Nick has worked in Ministerial offices at State Government levels as Chief of Staff to the Minister for Local Government; and Principal Policy Advisor to the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Racing, Gaming and Liquor. Nick has extensive experience in the Senior Executive in State Government, including roles in regional Western Australia. During this time, Nick managed complex policy agendas at both State and Local Government level.

Nick is a Director on a number of Boards including LGIS, an industry based Mutual Indemnity Scheme for Local Government in WA; Auspire (Australian Day Council WA); and is Chair of Nature Play WA, an NFP established to increase the time Western Australian children spend in unstructured play outdoors and in nature.



Barry Winmar

Barry Winmar is the CEO at the Institute of Indigenous Wellbeing and Sport, Councillor at the City of Kwinana and Managing Director of Winmar Enterprises. He also

serves on the WA State Government's Aboriginal Cultural Centre Cultural Authority – the steering committee to oversee the planning and stakeholder engagement for the new Aboriginal Cultural Centre. The Centre will provide spaces for art, performance, education, research, community and commercial activities, and is planned to become a major tourist and events attraction.

Prior to this Mr Winmar has held senior policy roles within the WA State Government in areas of Emergency Services, Corrective Services, Aboriginal Advisory Services, Child Protection and Aboriginal Justice after almost fifteen years serving as a Police Sergeant in the WA Police Force.



Richard Ellis

(Appointed November 2024)

Richard Ellis recently completed a seven-year term as a Senior Member of the Commonwealth Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

He has extensive experience in corporate strategy, government relations, communications, and issues management. Richard was previously a Director at Ernst and Young – Perth and has worked with ExxonMobil, APPEA, and in various policy roles in Commonwealth and State Governments. He has served as a senior advisor to Federal and State Members of Parliament. Richard also served on the selection panel for the WA division of the 2025 Australian of the Year Awards.



Priya Brown

(Appointed November 2024)

Priya Brown is a Director at GRA Partners, a specialist government relations and strategic communications firm.

With over a decade of experience, Priya has excelled in public policy development, political campaigns, and strategic communications for both State and Federal Governments.

She has served as a Chief of Staff and Special Adviser in the Western Australian Government and as a Principal Adviser to Treasurers in Western Australia and Victoria. Priya's expertise spans various policy areas, including Energy, Environment, Climate Change, Finance, Education, Sports, Lands, and Multicultural Interests.

She is a skilled communicator and stakeholder engagement practitioner, providing clear analysis to clients on policy areas and government processes while maintaining strong relationships at senior levels in both Federal and State Governments. Priya holds a Bachelor of Science/Arts (Psychology) from the University of Western Australia.

Our story

We think there's a lot to feel great about being Australian.

Like our spirit of mateship and making the most of the many opportunities we're given.

As Australians, we're known for our courage, and resilience and our passion.

Most importantly, we believe in the idea of a fair go. Not just having one but also giving one in return.

We are vibrant and distinct as one of the most diverse societies in the world and we are blessed to be home to the oldest living culture on earth.

And while all of our stories may begin in different places, we're bonded by a common future that we can create together.

At Auspire, we champion inclusion, respect, mateship and fair go, and through our awards, we recognise individuals and groups who are helping build stronger, more resilient communities off the back of these Australian values.





Australia Day
Council of
Western Australia

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Joint Patrons

His Excellency The Honourable
Chris Dawson AC APM,
Governor of Western Australia,
and Mrs Darrilyn Dawson

Vice Patron

The Honourable Roger Cook MLA,
Premier of Western Australia