



Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand

CLAANZ Conference 2019 — Thursday 1 August, Melbourne

Speaker biographies

Natasha Allitt

Natasha Allitt became the ACNC Policy Manager in July 2019, moving across from a role in an international development grant making charity. With previous community development experience on the ground in Russia, and public service experience in several Departments including AusAID and DFAT, Natasha possesses considerable experience in being both regulated and the regulator.

Sari Baird

Sari is General Counsel at Oxfam Australia, a charity that tackles global poverty. Sari's early career was as a lawyer with Herbert Smith Freehills in Melbourne and later, Jakarta. She held the positions of General Counsel and Company Secretary in an ASX listed company, and in legal and compliance in higher education, prior to moving to an in-house role in the charitable sector in 2010. Sari's involvement in charity governance include her past board roles at the Art Gallery of Ballarat and Sovereign Hill Museums, and her local Community Legal Centre's Committee of Management. She holds a BA/LLB and an LLM from the University of Melbourne and is a graduate of the AICD Company Directors course (GAICD). Sari is a member of the Law Institute's Charity and NFP Committee and the Australian Charity and Not-for-profit Commission's Professional Users Group.

Sue Barker

Sue Barker is the director of Sue Barker Charities Law, a boutique law firm based in Wellington, New Zealand, specialising in charities law and public tax law. Since its founding in 2012, the firm has won a number of awards, including Boutique Law Firm of the Year at the New Zealand Law Awards. Sue is a director of the Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand, a member of Charities Services' Sector User Group, and a member of the Core Reference Group for the Review of the Charities Act. Sue is also a co-author of the text, *The Law and Practice of Charities in New Zealand* (LexisNexis, 2013), and a contributor to *Regulating Charities: the Inside Story* (Routledge, 2017). In 2016, Sue was made an Honorary National Life Member of the National Council of Women of New Zealand Incorporated for her work assisting the Council with charities law issues.

Jennifer Batrouney QC

Jennifer practises in taxation, equity, superannuation, commercial and administrative law. With 27 years' experience at the Bar, she is a trusted advisor to a range of corporate, government and not-for-profit clients. In addition to general income tax and R&D matters, she has experience in advising in relation to GST, FBT, payroll and land taxes.

She also has a substantial equity practice in the not-for-profit sector and has assisted numerous not-for-profit entities to obtain or retain their tax concession charity status. Jennifer has acted as an expert determiner and is a consultant to the ATO Public Advice and Guidance Panel. Jennifer appears before the High Court, the Federal Court and the superior State courts, mainly in revenue matters. Jennifer has been a silk for over 17 years and is a past President of the Victorian Bar and of the Tax Bar Association. She is presently President of the Australian Bar Association and Chair of the Law Council Charities and Not-for-Profits committee. She is also a member of the Melbourne Law School Advisory Council and Melbourne Tax Masters Advisory Committee. Jennifer is also a Senior Fellow at the Melbourne Law School, teaching in the Tax Masters Program.

Jennifer Beard

Dr Jenny Beard is a Senior Lecturer at Melbourne Law School. She is currently involved in research on the public aspects of charity law over time, political advocacy of charities and the role of the not-for-profit sector in international law and development.

Nicola Bennett

Nicola Bennett has worked for the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission since its establishment in 2012, in the Registration team and the Legal team. Prior to that, she worked as a Registration Analyst in the New Zealand Charities Commission. She holds an LLB(Hons) and BA from Victoria University of Wellington.

Liana Brover

Liana is a Principal in Mercer's Governance & Legal Consulting team. Liana provides governance consulting services to boards and management in the financial services and non-for profit industries. She is also a Senior Legal Counsel with Mercer Legal Pty Ltd, a boutique law firm, where she works with local and international clients in implementing and advising on regulatory and other legal requirements. Her past roles with Mercer included being the Company Secretary for Mercer Companies in Australia. Prior to joining Mercer in 1999 she worked for the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, a private law firm and Sedgwick Noble Lowndes in London. Liana presents at the Governance Institute of Australia and was part of the Mercer team that developed course material for the AIST Trustee Director course. She also co-authored Mercer's thought leadership research paper on Independent Directors. Liana holds a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Laws from Monash University. She is also a Certificated Member of the Governance Institute of Australia and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees.

Joe Buchanan

Joe Buchanan has a Bachelor of Laws, and has worked with Charities Services for three years. As a Senior registration Analyst in the Regulatory group, Joe assists with communicating the requirements to become a registered charity, and remain a registered charity. Joe also assists with preparing papers and advice for the Independent Charities registration Board. Outside of work, Joe enjoys playing sports, watching sports, and talking sports. Joe also keeps fit running around after his two young children.

Selwyn Button

Mr Selwyn Button is a Gungarri man from South West Queensland, raised in Cherbourg. Mr Button has extensive experience in Queensland health and education sectors. From 2014 to 2018 he was Assistant Director-General of Indigenous Education in state schools, where he oversaw significant improvements in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Prior to that he was CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (QAIHC); chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service Brisbane Limited; and director of the Indigenous health policy branch within Queensland Health. He is a former teacher and worked as a Queensland police officer. Mr Button has served on numerous councils and committees including Oxfam Australia, the Queensland South Native Title Services, Queensland Indigenous Education Consultative Committee, and Queensland Council of Social Services. He remains a director of The Lowitja Institute; Australian Children's Education and Quality Care Authority (ACECQA); and Queensland Rugby Union.

Bridgid Cowling

Bridgid Cowling is a Senior Associate in Arnold Bloch Leibler's public interest law and native title groups. She advises a broad range of clients with a focus on charities and not-for-profit organisations, Aboriginal Land Councils and Native Title Representative Bodies. Bridgid is a member of a number of charities law committees and is currently Chair of the Tax Institute Not-for-profit Technical Committee.

John Emerson

John Emerson is a consultant with Herbert Smith Freehills specialising in charity law and the tax laws relating to charities. He provides advice, constituent documents, and other legal services to charities, individuals, corporates, and governments and has a particular interest in legislative and regulatory reform issues (and spending more time with his 5 young grandchildren). John has been appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) "for services to law and to the community, particularly through the provision of advice to charities and not-for-profit organisations and the development of public administration reform to encourage philanthropy in Australia".

Mark Fowler

Mark is an Appeals Panel member for the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the peak body for Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) involved in international development and humanitarian action. He is a member of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Professional Users Group and has served as a member of the Queensland Law Society's Human Rights Working Group. He is also an Associate Adjunct Professor at Notre Dame Law School.

Melissa Goode

Melissa has been a lawyer with Australian Red Cross for the last 5 years. She is a member of Red Cross' Modern Slavery Working Group that is leading Red Cross' response to the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act. Melissa provides legal advice to the Support for Trafficked People Program – which confronts the human face of slavery in Australia. Prior to Red Cross, Melissa worked in-house for a large corporate and in publishing. Melissa began her career at Allens Linklaters and is a graduate of Melbourne University.

Francisca Hoffman-Axhelm

Francisca grew up in Germany and undertook tertiary studies in both Berlin and Melbourne. She has worked in theatre, overseas aid, academia and the legal sector. Francisca is currently legal counsel at Australian Red Cross, providing legal advice on both domestic and international matters. Francisca is a member of Australian Lawyers for Human Rights.

Seak-King Huang

Seak-King is a Partner at Prolegis Lawyers. Seak-King has over 25 years' experience as a lawyer. Seak-King was General Counsel and Company Secretary of World Vision Australia and before that, a partner with a major commercial firm. Seak-King is a Graduate Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is currently on the Boards of Light Melbourne and Anglican Overseas Aid.

Jing Hui

Jing is a second-year PhD student at Melbourne Law School. Before coming to Melbourne Law School, Jing worked as a trust lawyer in the Beijing office of Zhong Lun Law Firm. Jing is currently working on the areas of trust law and charity law and his supervisors are Professor Matthew Harding and Professor Sarah Biddulph. Jing's PhD thesis examines the unique governance structure of the charitable trust in China.

Richard Hundt

Richard Hundt leads the Social Infrastructure practice at McCullough Robertson Lawyers. He advises senior executives and boards of non-profits, social enterprises, and government entities, including those operating in Australia and overseas. He specializes in the areas of legal and tax structuring, mergers, corporate governance and regulatory compliance, as well as strategic commercial collaborations and arrangements.

The Hon Dr Gary Johns

The Hon Dr Gary Johns took up the role of Commissioner following a long and varied career in public service and policy advice, including as the author or editor of eight books on public policy. He was an inaugural board member of Volunteers Australia, a member of the Prime Minister's Business Community Partnership, and the committee to design the Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Gary was a member of the House of Representatives from 1987-1996 and served variously as Parliamentary Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister, Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, and Special Minister of State and Assistant Minister for Industrial Relations. He served as an Associate Commissioner of the Commonwealth Productivity Commission 2002-2004. He received the Centenary Medal in 2001 and the Fulbright Professional Award in Australian-United States Alliance Studies in 2002, which was served at Georgetown University, Washington DC. He was Senior Fellow at the Institute of Public Affairs, senior consultant with ACIL Tasman, Associate Professor, Australian Catholic University, and Visiting Fellow at QUT Business School.

Professor Matthew Harding

Matthew Harding is Professor of Law and Deputy Dean at the Melbourne Law School, the University of Melbourne. Matthew's research interests lie in moral and political philosophy, the theory and doctrines of equity,

property law, judicial practice and precedent, and the law of charities and other not-for-profits. He has taught and published widely in these fields. He is the author of *Charity Law and the Liberal State* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and has edited or co-edited several collections, including *Fiduciaries and Trust: Ethics, Politics, Economics and Law* (Cambridge University Press 2019, with Professor Paul Miller), *The Research Handbook on Not-for-Profit Law* (Edward Elgar, 2018), *Not-for-Profit Law: Theoretical and Comparative Perspectives* (Cambridge University Press, 2014, with Professors Ann O'Connell and Miranda Stewart), and *Exploring Private Law* (Cambridge University Press, 2010, with Professor Elise Bant). Matthew is an editor of the *Journal of Equity*, a member of the Advisory Board of *Oxford Studies in Private Law*, a member of the Charities Committee of the Law Council of Australia, and the Chair of the Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand. He has been a visiting scholar at the University of Toronto, Queen's University Belfast, the University of Otago, the University of the Western Cape, and Florida State University, and in January 2020 will be Kwa Geok Choo Distinguished Visitor at the National University of Singapore.

Lisa Huett

Lisa specialises in competition and consumer protection law with a particular focus on the application and enforcement of Australia's cartel laws. She has advised extensively on competition law matters, including preparing responses to ACCC investigations, advising on the competition implications of clients' proposals and conduct, and assessing the application of the Australian Consumer Law to advertising, promotions and contract terms.

Lisa's strength is in working with clients with market leading positions to structure their pricing and supply strategies to achieve their commercial objectives whilst complying with competition laws. Lisa's clients are diverse, ranging across industries including the telecommunications, retail food and pharmaceutical sectors.

Lisa has been a Non-Government Adviser to the ACCC, presenting at International Competition Network Cartel Workshops. She is consistently recognised by her peers for her competition and telecommunications expertise as noted by leading international survey Best Lawyers, and is ranked in Chambers for her competition law expertise.

Annie Keely

Annie has been a lawyer for over for over 30 years. Most of her work has been with Aboriginal groups and communities initially on Land Rights Act land claims in the Northern Territory and later on native title claims, cultural heritage protection matters and community development. She lived in the NT for 10 years, including a year each in Tennant Creek and Darwin but mostly in Alice Springs. Since returning to Victoria, she was Principal Legal Officer at Native Title Services Vic (as it then was) and then worked as a consultant lawyer on native title claims here, in Queensland and the NT. From 2012-2018 she worked at the ACNC in several roles, including as Director Compliance, and later as Director Legal and Policy. She recently joined Justice Connect as Manager NFP Law which she is loving.

Associate Professor Rosemary Langford

Dr Rosemary Langford is an associate professor with the Melbourne Law School with particular expertise in the areas of corporate governance and directors' duties as well as fiduciary duties. Her second book, *Company Directors' Duties and Conflicts of Interest* was published by Oxford University Press earlier this year. Rosemary has recently commenced a three year project on governance and regulation of charities funded by an Australian Research Council grant. She is an active participant in the Not for Profit and Corporations Committees of the Law Council of Australia and edits the directors' duties section of the *Company and Securities Law Journal*.

Jacinta Lawson

Jacinta Lawson is currently a Director in the ATO working in the Not For Profit Centre where her role provides the government and community with confidence and assurance that NFP's are supported to deliver important services, access the right concessions, operate for purpose and meet their obligations. Jacinta has been in the ATO in various roles with over 20 years' experience including various compliance roles dealing both domestically and with offshore jurisdictions, including an external agency secondment opportunity.

Professor Dejian Li

Professor Dejian Li is a Lecturer and Vice-Director at Centre of Welfare and Law (Charity Research Centre), Law School, Zhejiang University of Technology, China. He graduated from Shandong University, China (LLB) and University of Liverpool (PhD). Professor Li has published more than 20 (including Chinese SSCI) articles relating to charity law, non-profit governance and social welfare. doing research on charity governance in China based on the economic and comparative perspectives. The main research areas include civil and commercial law, charity law and policy, corporate and non-profit governance.

Andrew Lind

Andrew was admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of Queensland and The High Court of Australia in 1990. He has been advising charities for more than 3 decades. Andrew has served on many not-for-profit and charity boards. He currently serves on charity law policy and law reform committees of the Law Council of Australia and the Queensland Law Society, and in the latter case as its chair.

Fr. Brian Lucas

Fr Brian Lucas is a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney. He is presently the National Director of Catholic Mission the Church's overseas mission aid agency. Previous appointments include General Secretary of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference in Canberra, Financial Administrator and Secretary of the Archdiocese of Sydney, Director of Catholic Church Insurances Limited and he spent 15 years as archdiocesan media spokesman. He was a founding member of the Catholic Church Professional Standards Committee from 1989 - 1999. He was a founding member of the ATO Charity consultative committee a position he held for 16 years. Fr Lucas has academic qualifications in law, general studies and theology. He is an adjunct professor of the Australian Catholic University and a member the Australian Charities and Not-for Profits Commission Professional Users Group. He is a co-author of the *Church Administration Handbook* and *Pleasing to God – The Call to Church Administration*.

Professor Xin Lyu

Xin Lyu obtained a PhD in Guanghua Law School of Zhejiang University in 2011. He is currently an associate professor in Law School of Zhejiang University of Technology and serves as director of the Center of charity law. He has hosted 2 national projects including "The Charity Law in Contemporary China"(subsidized by National Social Sciences Fund) in 2014 and "The Charitable Collection Law in Contemporary China: Problems and Solutions"(subsidized by National Social Sciences Fund) in 2018, as well as 7 key projects at the provincial and ministerial-level (subsidized by Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Civil Affairs and China Law Society ,etc.). His articles (10 in total) were published in Chinese SSCI journals like Tsinghua University Law Journal and China Modern Law Review. He also earned Second Prize of Research Rewards awarded by Ministry of Civil Affairs (with research "The Charity Law in Contemporary China") in

2014. Dr. Lyu participated in the enactment of the Chinese Charity Law as a legal expert. Dr. Lyu is currently participating in "Social Relief Law Legislation Project" which is organized by National People's Congress PRC & China Association of Social Security. Before this, he served as a major advocate in legislation of "Charity Regulations of Zhejiang Province", which was organized by the People's Congress of Zhejiang Province in 2014.

Suhanya Mendes

As Legal Counsel at the ACNC, Suhanya Mendes (LLB(Hons), BCom(Acc)), provides advice to the Commissioner and ACNC staff about the ACNC's statutory obligations under the ACNC and Charities Acts. Prior to that she was in private practice advising NFPs and charities on their governance, structuring and taxation obligations. She has worked with a range of Australian and international organisations in the education, disability and faith sectors, amongst others. Suhanya has also served on a number of NFP boards and in volunteer roles including as Legal Fellow with International Justice Mission in Uganda for a year. Suhanya has presented for Legalwise, CLAAANZ, Leo Cussen Institute, the Law Institute of Victoria and Television Education Network.

Simon Miller

Simon is legal professional with 20 years of experience in the corporate and humanitarian sectors. Simon has worked as a corporate lawyer in London and has spent the last decade as a legal and governance advisor within the international NGO sector. Simon is currently General Counsel at Save the Children Australia where he is responsible for management of legal services and providing strategic legal advice to the CEO and Board. Simon is also Deputy Chair of the Australian Council For International Development's Code of Conduct Committee.

Steven Moe

Steven Moe is a Partner at Parry Field Lawyers in New Zealand. He worked for an international law firm in Tokyo (4 years), London (3 years) and Sydney (4 years). He works with many charities as well as social enterprises and wrote a book about that topic and does a weekly podcast called seeds telling stories of people doing good.

Dr Ian Murray

Dr Ian Murray is an academic at the University of Western Australia Law School where he teaches and researches in Taxation and Not-for-profit Law, with a focus on the intersection between Not-for-profit Law, Tax and Corporate Governance.

Hayley Parkes

Hayley joined Housing Choices Australia in 2015 as General Counsel and Company Secretary where she has led the legal strategy supporting its growth and business diversification. In this time, HCA has doubled in size and opened new operations in South Australia and NSW providing new homes to those who need it. She is no stranger to curly economic policy questions having worked previously at both the ACCC and Mallesons Stephen Jaques. She is passionate about using her skills and experience to empower people and organisations to stand up for their beliefs and create a fairer society. Hayley is a graduate member of the AICD, has a Graduate Diploma in Competition and Consumer Law from Melbourne University and a Bachelor of Law (Hons)/ Bachelor of Science from Monash University.

Professor Pauline Ridge

Professor Pauline Ridge, Australian National University, researches in equity, restitution and contract law, and has a special interest in the legal regulation of religious financing, including through charity law. This work has led Pauline into human rights law, particularly the right to freedom of religion. In the first half of 2019 she was a visitor at Oxford Brooke University's Centre for Commercial Religion and at the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society, University of Victoria, Canada. Her CLAANZ conference presentation is based on her forthcoming article in the 2020 *Canadian Journal of Contemporary and Comparative Law* (special issue on Charity and Non-Profit Law).

Anne Robinson AM

Anne Robinson is the founder and principal of Prolegis Lawyers, provider of legal services to the not-for-profit sector. She has advised on corporate law, governance, charitable trust structuring and tax issues for the whole range of Australia's charitable institutions. She has also had 30 years' experience in governance of not-for-profit organisations, including as Director and Board Chair of World Vision Australia for 12 years until 2012. Anne was Deputy Chair of the Not-for-Profit Sector Reform Council and a member of the NFP Tax Concession Working Group (as established by the previous government). Anne founded the Australian Charity Law Association in 2009 (now known as the Charity Law Association of Australia and New Zealand).

Krystian Seibert

Krystian Seibert is a researcher, educator and advocate focused on public policy, philanthropy and the not-for-profit sector. He is an Industry Fellow at the Centre for Social Impact at Swinburne University of Technology, and is a Policy Adviser to Philanthropy Australia, the peak body for philanthropy in Australia.

Dr Natalie Silver

Dr Natalie Silver is a lecturer at the University of Sydney Law School, where she teaches Contracts. Her research focuses on not-for-profit law and regulation. Natalie holds a PhD from the Australian Centre for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies at QUT, a Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, a Bachelor of Laws from Murdoch University, and a Bachelor of Commerce from UWA. She has extensive philanthropic advisory experience through her work in New York as Director of Philanthropic Services at the Jewish Funders Network and as a Vice President at J.P. Morgan Private Bank in the Philanthropic Services group. Natalie has also worked as a corporate lawyer in the New York office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP and as an associate to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Israel.

Sue Woodward

Sue has helped lead Justice Connect's specialist [Not-for-profit Law](#) service since 2015, having been the driving force behind its establishment in 2008. In the intervening years, she was the inaugural Director, Policy & Education at the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Sue is a former academic with Melbourne Law School, including teaching master level subjects on the regulatory and governance issues for not-for-profits. She is the lead contact for the [#fixfundraising](#) campaign. Sue is a member of the Law Council's Charities and Not-for-Profits Legal Practice Committee and board member of the Human Rights Law Centre and the Victorian Council of Social Service.

Verity Quinn

Verity Quinn is the Deputy General Counsel of the Competition & Consumer Law Unit at the ACCC. Formerly a Special Counsel at Allens, and having spent a number of years working as inhouse antitrust counsel at Shell and at Linklaters in the UK, Verity has over 15 years' experience advising the ACCC and commercial clients in Australia and globally on competition and consumer law matters. In her early career, Verity was a Federal Court associate and the Australian Competition Tribunal associate, working for the Honourable Justice Alan Goldberg AO. Verity is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and has served on the Board of Fitted for Work, and is an ambassador for the Human Rights Law Centre.

Vera Visevic

Vera heads up the Not-for-Profit & Social Enterprise team at Mills Oakley, and has over 25 years' experience in acting for numerous charities, religious and not-for-profit organisations. Vera provides a full suite of commercial services to not-for-profit clients, including protecting commercial arrangements through drafting services agreements, privacy policies, internal policies and procedures, and reviewing grant and other government agreements. Vera's expertise includes assisting clients with governance and fundraising issues, mergers and divisions, establishment of charitable trusts and funds, tax concessions and exemptions, and regularly advises on constitutions, structural issues and ATO endorsements. Vera sits on a number of boards and committees. Some of these boards and committees are: Eric Dare Foundation; Parramatta Diocesan CatholicCare; ACNC Professional User Group; and Community and Consumer Consultative Group, Cemeteries and Crematoria NSW.