

Diabetes Australia Board of Directors

The Diabetes Australia Board is chaired by Independent President and Directors from our Member Organisations.

Independent President



Patricia McKenzie – LLB, MAICD

Patricia is Diabetes Australia's first Independent President, and was appointed to the position in June 2010. She is also a member of the Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee.

Patricia has previously worked as Director of the Australian Energy Market Operator Ltd, Chair of Sunnyfield Ltd, Chair of the Information Exchange Committee and Chief Executive Officer of Gas Market Company Ltd.

Patricia has considerable expertise and experience in energy market regulation, corporate legal practice and the not-for-profit disability sector.

Patricia is a Director of APA Group, which is the largest owner/operator of gas pipeline infrastructure in Australia. She is also the Chair of Cromehurst Foundation Ltd.

Patricia's invaluable contribution in the diabetes area is due to the diagnosis of a family member with type 1 diabetes.

Directors

Tracy Ayles – RN, CDE, BHSc(Nursing), Grad Cert (Diabetes Education), Grad Cert (Health Services Management)

Tracy was appointed to the Board of Directors in April 2011 and is a Director of the Australian Diabetes Educators Association.

Having worked previously for the Royal District Nursing Service, Tracy worked as a Clinical Nurse Consultant and a Senior Job Representative for the Australian Nursing Federation in 1994, contributing to improving care systems and clinical expertise in diabetes care. She has also held a voluntary role as an Executive Member in the Community Nursing Interest Group. From 1993 until 2002, Tracy was elected Branch Councillor for nurses in the Australian Nursing Federation – Victorian Council, and from 1995 until 2001 was the Branch Executive.

Currently Tracy works with the Hospital Admission Risk Program in conjunction with Western Health. She is involved in diabetes self-management education, development of teaching and learning resources, and mentoring new diabetes educators.

As a community nurse, Tracey found increasing numbers of clients being diagnosed with diabetes. This led to her pursuit of increasing skills to care for people with diabetes, which eventually became a specialised focus.



Wah Cheung – MBBS, FRACP, PhD

Wah was appointed to the Board of Directors in November 2010. He is the President of the Australian Diabetes Society (appointed 2010) and has been on their Council since 2004. He is currently the Chair of Diabetes Australia's Medical, Education and Scientific Committee (appointed September 2010) and has been a Committee member since January 2010.

Wah Cheung has been a member of a number of committees which advise the Commonwealth and NSW Departments of Health on various aspects of diabetes and its care, as well as being a former Council Member of the Australasian Diabetes in Pregnancy Society and a former Chairperson of the National Association of Diabetes Centres. He is currently an Endocrinologist at Westmead and Nepean Hospitals and an Associate Professor and researcher with the University of Sydney.

His main interests are diabetes in pregnancy, the prevention of diabetes and the management of diabetes in hospitals. His desire to improve the lives of people with diabetes has led him to be involved with Diabetes Australia, and other organisations and committees related to diabetes.



Michael d'Emden – MB BS, FRACP, PhD

Michael was appointed to the Board of Directors in February 2011 and is the Chair of Diabetes Australia's Health Care & Education Committee.

He was a resident and registrar at the Princess Alexandra Hospital and the Royal Melbourne Hospital. He is employed at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, where he is Director of Endocrinology and Diabetes. He was appointed the Clinical Chair of the Queensland state-wide clinical network in January 2008.

His major clinical interests are diabetes and lipid metabolism and he is an active clinical trialist. He has been on international management committees of several studies, including the FIELD and ASPEN studies. He also has a major interest in computers and their use to enhance medical practice. He has been appointed the Medical Director of Extensia Pty Ltd, a leading developer of shared electronic health records and interactive health services directories.

Michael is excited by the opportunity to make a difference, in particular enhancing the interface between the medical profession and lay organisations in working towards better health outcomes for people with diabetes.



Chris Jose – MBA, Dip Law

Chris was appointed to the Board of Directors in May 2011 and is the President of Diabetes Australia – Victoria (appointed in 2009), where he has served as a Director from 2007.

Chris has previously worked as a barrister at the Victorian Bar, and has worked for various Government agencies. He is a partner in one of Australia's leading law firms, Freehills, where he practises in the areas of competition law and market regulation. Chris was also a key adviser to the PNG Government in its reform of the telecommunications industry.

Chris has a desire to contribute to the diabetes movement, having personally experienced diabetes with one of his children, who has type 1 diabetes. Chris recognises the value of applying professional skills in the diabetes movement, and is pleased to be able to contribute through both Diabetes Australia – Victoria, and on the Board of Diabetes Australia.



Carol Mackey – BEc, CTch

Carol was appointed to the Board of Directors in May 2010, is a Director of Diabetes Australia - Queensland (appointed 2008) and was previously a community member of the Diabetes Australia Medical, Education and Scientific Committee. Currently Carol is a member of the Diabetes Australia International Affairs Committee and is a Diabetes Australia Delegate for the International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region.

Carol's working background has been varied, but has mainly focused on education and educational marketing. Her skills in education (secondary teaching) and marketing and events (James Cook University and Education Queensland) have been invaluable to Diabetes Australia.

When Carol's six-year-old child was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, Carol was determined to find out as much as possible about diabetes. She felt an involvement with a diabetes peak body was an ideal way to keep informed of developments and become a voice for those people with diabetes in regional areas. As Carol's child has now become a young adult, she is also becoming increasingly interested in the transitions issues facing those with type 1 diabetes.



Gordon Melsom – Post Grad Dip MGT, MBA

Gordon was appointed to the Board of Directors in March 2010 and is the President of Diabetes Tasmania (appointed November 2010).

Gordon's prior experience includes management consulting, executive coaching and managing a psychological services company. Concurrently he lectured in management at the Curtin Graduate School of Management, Edith Cowan University and the University of Notre Dame Australia over a 13 year period. He was also Chair of Notre Dame's External Advisory Board in Health Sciences.

Gordon has worked in the community services sector for the past 14 years at senior management level, including roles as a Chief Executive Officer of Relationships Australia (WA), Homelessness Australia, Diabetes ACT and he is currently Chief Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Deaf Society.

Gordon has maintained his interest in working with diabetes organisations due to the worthwhile research activities they conduct and the contribution they make in assisting people with diabetes.



John Townend – AM, CFRE, FFIA, LFS (Hons)

John was appointed to the Board of Directors in June 2010. He is the Chair of Diabetes Australia Research Ltd (appointed 1991), has served as a Director since 1989, and is a Governor of the Kellion Diabetes Foundation.

John was formerly the Vice-Chairman of the International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region, President of Diabetes Australia, and President of Diabetes Australia – NSW. John was also the Chair of Fundraising Institute Australia – NSW and Fundraising Institute Australia.

As part of his role as Director of International Ministries for a US not-for-profit organisation, he is a Chair for organisations in Germany and Holland, and a Director for organisations in Canada, England, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

John has actively contributed to the diabetes movement over the last 28 years, and he personally experienced the effects of diabetes when one of his sons was diagnosed at the age of five. His wish is to see a cure for diabetes.



Moira Watson – DipTch, B Ed, Grad Dip Dist Ed, Dip Man

Moira was appointed to the Board of Directors in December 2010, is the President of Diabetes - WA (appointed 2009) and has been a Director since 2006. Currently Moira is a member of the Diabetes Australia International Affairs Committee and is a Diabetes Australia Delegate for the International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region. She is also the Chair of Diabetes Australia Finance, Audit and Risk Management Committee and a member of the Conquest Editorial Board.

Moira is currently employed as Group Manager of Capability Development with the Macmahon Group, a leading Australian construction and contract mining company. She owns Chutzpa, a management consulting company which constructs corporate capability through strategic visioning, change transitioning, leader enhancement and coaching.

Having experienced the impact of diabetes personally and within her extended family, Moira is keen to use her understanding and skills to make a difference to those at risk of, or affected by, this chronic condition.



Paul Williams – BSc, MSc, PhD, ARCPA, FFSc (RCPA)

Paul was appointed to the Board of Directors in 2008. He is a Director of Diabetes Australia Research Ltd (appointed 2002) and a past President of the Australian Diabetes Society. He is a member of the Diabetes Australia International Affairs Committee and is on the Executive Committee of the International Diabetes Federation Western Pacific Region. Paul was also previously a member of the Diabetes Australia Medical, Education and Scientific Committee.

Paul is the Endocrine Society of Australia's delegate to the Pathology Associations Committee and a member of the American Diabetes Association. He has been a Foundation Fellow of the Faculty of Science and an Associate Member of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia. He is an Associate Professor and Principal Research Fellow at the University of Sydney Medical School.

Paul has been involved in diabetes research since 1972, covering insulin resistance, insulin receptor structure and function, insulin action, diabetes complications and pathology testing for diabetes. He aims to ensure that the rights and concerns of people with diabetes are represented by Diabetes Australia to the Commonwealth.