

Feb 2007 - Australia Day Honours

Last Updated Tuesday, 20 February 2007

Every Australia Day, the nation celebrates Australians from a diverse range of fields and disciplines. The Australian honour system is unique, as the community are able to nominate any Australian citizen.

Member of the Order of Australia (AM) recipients

The following individuals were recognised for their contribution to the early childcare field.

Professor Graham Vimpani (NSW)

For service to medicine as a paediatrician, researcher and academic dedicated to improving child welfare with government, professional and community organisations.

Graham Vimpani has a long history of work in developing social justice strategies and early intervention programs to support young children and their families. He is:

- Chairman of the Board of the National Investment for the Early Years
- member of the Ministerial Partnership for the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy and the Australian Council for Children and Parenting
- member of the steering committee of the Australian Research Alliance for children and youth.

View the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 'Picture of Australia's children advisory group'

Dr Belle Alderman (ACT)

For service to children's literature as an academic, researcher and mentor to emerging writers and illustrators, in the development of the Lu Rees Archives of Australian Children's Literature and to professional associations.

Belle Alderman is the author of many books on literature and learning and is the first Professor of Children's Literature in Australia. She is currently:

- Collections Development Manager of the Lu Rees Archives at the University of Canberra
- Head of the School of Information, Management and Tourism, at the University of Canberra.

Read the AustLit entry on Belle Alderman.

Lynette Wannan (Vic)

For service in social policy, education, and children's services through leadership and advisory roles with government and community bodies.

Lynette Wannan has been a member of the Victorian Premier's Children's Advisory Committee and manager of Community Services for the City of Sunshine. Currently she is:

- Convenor of the National Association of Community Based Children's Services and Chair of the Victorian Branch
- Chair of Community Child Care Victoria, Adult Community and Further Education Board of the Victorian Department of Education and Training
- member of the Victorian Qualifications Authority, Victorian Learning and Skills Commission, Child Care Reference Group of the Commonwealth Department of Family and Children's Services and Post-Compulsory Education Reference Group of the City of Hobson's Bay
- Deputy Chair of Western Chances, Chair of the Western Chances Program Development Subcommittee and a member of the Audit Committee.

View the Patron and Board of Western Chances.

Other recipients

- Mr James Birch (Glenunga, SA) – For service to the community through leadership roles in health, justice, public housing and child protection services
- Sister Margaret Cameron (Forbes, NSW) - For service to the Catholic Church through leadership of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands, to education, particularly establishing programs to help children with impaired hearing, and to pastoral training in the Wilcannia-Forbes diocese

- Phillip Cave (Milsons Point, NSW) – For service to the community, particularly support services for children and young adults with disabilities, and to business as a company director

- Professor Michelle Haber (Children's Cancer Institute Australia, Randwick, NSW) – For service to science in childhood cancer research, to scientific education and to the community

- Robert Ingpen (Anglesea, Vic) – For service to literature as a children's book illustrator and author, to art design, education and to health care

- Dr June Kane (Essendon, Vic) – For service to the international community as an advisor, researcher and consultant with organisations tackling child slavery and prostitution

- James King (Mount Nasura, WA) – For service to the community through crime prevention and child safety programs, and to security industry training and charities

- Reverend Dr Donald William Owers (Highbury, SA) – For service to the community in raising awareness of child sexual abuse and campaigning for justice and support for victims.

Medal of the Order recipients

In addition to those that received a Member of the Order of Australia, there were many individuals from the early childhood field who were awarded a Medal of the Order (OAM).

For the full list of recipients:

Visit [It's an honour: Australia celebrating Australians website](#).

Read [The Australian 'Full list of 2007 Australia Day honours'](#).

Read [Sydney Morning Herald 'Australia Day honours – honouring the achievers'](#).

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