

Prestigious awards ceremony celebrates the work of outstanding public administrators

Thursday 21 November 2013: Public administrators from across Australia were last night honoured at the 2013 IPAA National Awards Ceremony in Canberra.

Terry Moran AC, National President of the Institute of Public Administration Australia, said the awards celebrated individuals for their contribution to public administration.

“This group of talented, dedicated and highly professional public administrators have made an outstanding contribution to the public sector throughout the country,” said Mr Moran.

“As the professional association for the public sector, IPAA is very proud to acknowledge their achievements. It is particularly significant that these awards are peer-nominated and peer-judged so they reflect views and opinions that have been built up over many years of service,” Mr Moran added.

Recipients of the 2013 IPAA National Fellow award are:

- **Dr Ian Watt AO** (Australian Capital Territory)
- **Stephen Sedgwick AO** (Australian Capital Territory)
- **Alison Turner** (Australian Capital Territory)
- **Jane Spring** (New South Wales)
- **Michael Coutts-Trotter** (New South Wales)
- **Peter Duncan AM** (New South Wales)
- **Sandy Pitcher** (South Australia)
- **Colin Murphy PSM** (Western Australia)
- **Andrew Jackomos PSM** (Victoria)
- **Andrew Tongue PSM** (Victoria)
- **Dr Claire Noone** (Victoria)

National Fellowship is the highest award that IPAA offers and in the last thirty years the Institute has awarded just 200 Fellowships.

Other awards presented last night were the Sam Richardson Award for the most influential article published in the Australian Journal of Public Administration, and the IPAA Young Public Sector Leader Award.

Will Sanders received the Sam Richardson award for his AJPA article, *Coombs' Bastard Child: The Troubled Life of CDEP*.

Duncan Young, Shabnam Gill and **Sally Fensling** received the IPAA Young Public Sector Leader award which recognises the achievements of outstanding public servants under the age of 40 who have just completed the Executive Master of Public Administration program.

The Awards Ceremony was held at the Australian War Memorial as part of the IPAA 2013 National Conference.

Information on award recipients follows. Further information about IPAA can be found at www.ipaa.org.au.

2013 IPAA National Fellows

Dr Ian Watt AO (Australian Capital Territory)

Dr Ian Watt AO has been the head of four government departments, Prime Minister and Cabinet; Finance and Deregulation; Communication, Technology and the Arts; and Defence. He has also had key leadership roles in OECD Working Parties, and been the economic advisor in the Australian Embassy in Washington.

Dr Watt is a strong proponent of good public administration as a key tool for assisting the APS in supporting the Australian Government to develop effective policies and improve service delivery. Dr Watt is a strong supporter of whole of government approaches (Commonwealth, States and Territories) and is a strong advocate for women as leaders.

Stephen Sedgwick AO (Australian Capital Territory)

The Commissioner for the Public Service Commission, Stephen Sedgwick AO has had a long and very distinguished career in the public services. Previously, Mr Sedgwick has headed up the Departments Finance and Employment and Education. He has also played key roles internationally and in the private sector.

A classic reformist, Mr Sedgwick emphasises the need for APS reforms to be accompanied by innovation and outcomes that are evidence based, address equality and diversity issues, and meet stringent accountability and reporting requirements.

In June this year, he released a new document "Strengthening the Performance Framework: towards a high performing Australian Public Service." The framework has been developed to give agencies the tools to sort out the quality of performance management he raised in the 2011-2012 State of the Service Report.

During his career, Mr Sedgwick has also written many other articles aimed at improving the equality, accountability and diversity of the APS.

Alison Turner (Australian Capital Territory)

Alison Turner has managed her own consulting business since 2011 undertaking program and project reviews and program diagnostics. She is a very active IPAA ACT Council member and is contributing to IPAA nationally chairing a Steering Committee developing Professional Capabilities for the public sector across the three levels of government.

Prior to 2011, Ms Turner had a distinguished career in the public service. She was Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the National Blood Authority and CEO of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. She also held a number of senior executive positions in the health and primary industry sectors. Under Ms Turner's leadership, the National Blood Authority achieved national and international success for excellence in public sector management.

Jane Spring (New South Wales)

Jane Spring has made a significant contribution to public administration in New South Wales, particularly in elite sport governance and facilities over the past 2 decades. She currently leads the NSW Institute of Sport. Jane has contributed materially to the understanding and practice of the Company Secretary in the public sector, and has served on a number of important government boards and advisory bodies. She has made major contributions to the governance of several important NSW public sector agencies, as well as the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games as SOCOG Board Secretary.

Michael Coutts-Trotter (New South Wales)

Michael Coutts-Trotter has led a succession of significant NSW government agencies for over a decade. He is currently Director General of the Department of Family and Community Services and has previously served as Director General of the Departments of Finance and Services, Education and Communities, and Commerce. Prior to that Mr Coutts-Trotter was Chief of Staff to the NSW Treasurer.

In each of his appointments he has taken a leadership role in advancing both the portfolios he has led, as well the NSW public sector in general. In particular, his leadership of the important central agency of Finance and Services has resulted in a host of important policy initiatives and innovations, in government procurement and purchasing, corporate shared services, open government, and electronic information services.

Michael Coutts-Trotter continues to occupy an influential place in senior government circles and is widely-respected for the quality of his insights.

Peter Duncan AM (New South Wales)

During his 35 year career in the public sector, Peter Duncan has served with distinction at a senior level in the NSW Public Service, in local government and internationally. He has also served on a number of senior Government regulatory and advisory boards and committees.

Mr Duncan was Deputy Director General in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet, Director General of the then NSW Department of Technology and Administration, Managing Director of Forests NSW and Chief Executive and Director of the Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust.

He has also undertaken private consulting work on major infrastructure projects both in Australia and London, where he worked on road and rail design for the iconic London Docklands Redevelopment project.

Peter is currently Chief Executive of Roads and Maritime Services NSW within the Transport for NSW cluster of agencies.

Sandy Pitcher (South Australia)

Sandy Pitcher is a Senior Leader in the South Australian public sector. She has a strong history of public sector service in the State and Commonwealth public sectors, and has worked in the UK at the Commission for Racial Equality. Ms Pitcher has been the Deputy Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet South Australia since May 2010 and is responsible for the central policy function of the South Australian government.

Ms Pitcher is a unique individual with many talents and thus was acknowledged and awarded the South Australian Telstra Business Women of the Year for the Community and Public Sector category, and went on to win the national title in November 2012.

Colin Murphy PSM (Western Australia)

Colin Murphy's career spans over 44 years in the public service and he has been widely recognised as being instrumental in the establishment of new Departments. Throughout his career Mr Murphy has aimed for better practice and continuous improvement.

Mr Murphy has extensive experience in finance and administration in state and Commonwealth government roles. He has held senior positions within the state government in the Departments of Justice, Treasury and Finance, Land Administration and the Building Management Authority. He has also worked for the Commonwealth Department of Finance in Perth and Washington DC and as Business Manager for Murdoch University.

For interviews or further information please contact Jo Rose, 0417 771 055 or jo@nsw.ipaa.org.au

Mr Murphy is the current West Australian Auditor General and a member of the Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Andrew Jackomos PSM (Victoria)

Andrew Jackomos, who has recently been appointed the first Victorian Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People has had a long and significant career in public administration at both State and federal levels. Mr Jackomos has contributed over 30 years of service to the development of Indigenous policy. In his capacity as the founder of Victoria's Koori Justice Unit, Mr Jackomos has been a long-time advocate for the importance of Aboriginal people participating in the delivery of government programs and services that impact on them.

Mr Jackomos was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2006 for his work with the AJA and in improving justice outcomes for the Koori community. As a founding member of IPAA Victoria's Indigenous Advisory committee, Andrew continues his passion for smarter and stronger Indigenous policy.

Andrew Tongue PSM (Victoria)

Andrew Tongue, one of Australia's most senior public servants has implemented significant reforms in policy development and service delivery to improve the lives of Victorians and Australians. Mr Tongue has had a long and distinguished career in the Commonwealth Public Service before commencing as Secretary of the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet.

His previous public sector roles included Deputy Secretary for the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs responsible for Australian Government social housing programs, remote indigenous housing, remote service delivery, community employment programs and indigenous economic development.

Mr Tongue was inducted as a Victorian Fellow to the Institute in 2012 and has since continued to energetically engage in events and through formal and informal meetings with the organisation.

Dr Claire Noone (Victoria)

Dr Claire Noone in her various senior roles across both Federal and State government has had significant experience in corporate and regulatory strategy and policy development and implementation

As a senior executive at the Department of Justice, including as Acting Secretary, Dr Noone demonstrated strategic vision and direction setting. During her time at Consumer Affairs Victoria, and the Victorian WorkCover Authority Dr Noone was instrumental in implementing major change programs.

In her role as Deputy President of IPAA Victoria, Dr Noone continues to guide the Victorian division as one of the most active and respected board members. As the head of the Victorian Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, Dr Noone has put in place significant reforms that have substantially improved the organisation's long term financial planning and investment policies.

2013 Sam Richardson Award Winner

Will Sanders for his Australian Journal of Public Administration article Coombs' Bastard Child: Troubled Life of CDEP, (Vol 71, Issue 4, pages 371-391, December 2012)

Mr Sander's paper explores the Community Development Employment Projects (CEDP) scheme which was supported by Nugget Coombs.

The CDEP was based on the idea of replacing unemployment benefits for people living in remote indigenous communities with an opportunity for them to be employed part-time by local Indigenous organisations to undertake socially useful tasks.

From this idea was born one of the most significant and largest Indigenous-specific programs that Australia has ever seen and one that has attracted both praise and criticism.

2013 IPAA Young Public Sector Leader Award Winner

Duncan Young whose work with the Australian Bureau of Statistics includes running the Australian Census. Census data plays a critical role in defining who we are as a nation and contributes to an effective Australian democracy by supporting informed decision making, research and discussion within governments and the community.

Shabnam Gill whose work includes providing high level policy advice to the primary environmental regulator for New South Wales, the Office of Environment and Heritage in New South Wales.

Sally Fensling whose work with the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria includes delivering on the Victorian Government's Murray Darling Basin taskforce, forestry reforms, the Food to Asia program and the creation of the Victorian Game Management Authority.