

SENIOR EXECUTIVE - TONI WREN

Web: www.toniwren.com Email: tw@toniwren.com Tel: 0405 705 442

SUMMARY STATEMENT

I am a highly experienced senior executive specialising in policy research and development, advocacy, communications and non-profit management and strategy. I have more than three decades experience and expertise working with non-profit organisations, disadvantaged people, employers, journalists and politicians in Australia, the UK, USA and Japan. My top 5 [Gallup Clifton Strengths](#) are *achiever, activator, communicator, responsible, strategic*.

KEY SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

- Non-profit management expertise as CEO; member and leader of Governance structures and external consultant.
- Project & Program management – reporting, financials, effective delivery and evaluation.
- Extensive network of contacts across business, government, media and non-profit sector.
- Critical and innovative thinking with strong analytical skills and capacity to complete complex tasks within tight deadlines.
- High level research, policy and evaluation experience.
- Excellent written and verbal skills – with an ability to communicate with a number of audiences and to advocate clearly and persuasively.

EMPLOYMENT ACHIEVEMENTS

January 2019-: **Executive Director, Anti-Poverty Week (APW)**. I have led the development and implementation of the refreshed strategy 2019-2021 including writing of new [website](#), key poverty Fast Facts and promotional materials. Responsible to developing strong relationships with sponsors; senior politicians, NGO leaders and journalists; as well as grass roots community organisations. 2019 evaluation confirmed significant progress on APW strategic outcomes.

July 2015-Dec 2018: **Policy and Project Lead, The Australian Network on Disability (AND)** In this role I led high profile and pioneering projects, regularly represent the organisation at government advisory committees, research and write policy submissions, co-ordinate program evaluations, deliver disability confidence training to employers and play an active role in the leadership team.

Achievements:

- Led successful High Growth Jobs Talented Candidates demand-led employment project funded by the NSW Government, with employment retention rates of 89%.
- Leading Victorian Employer Enablement Project working with three large employers (Barwon Health, Bupa, and Royal Children's Hospital).
- Designed policy improvements for the Work Assist program to support employees who acquire disability while employed and successfully advocated for their adoption from 1/7/18.

Oct 2008-June 2015 **Employment and Social Policy Consultant, Cuttagee Consulting**
Clients included ACOSS, Australian Network on Disability, The Benevolent Society, Brotherhood of St Laurence, The Business Council of Australia, Dusseldorp Skills Forum, Federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Jobs Australia, Job Find, Job Futures, The Smith Family and Work Focus.

Achievements:

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- Assisted employment agencies to improve performance, providing advice on external operating environment, strategy, implementation and organisational restructure.
- Coordinated an alliance between the Business Council of Australia, the Australian Council of Trade Unions and the Australian Council of Social Service to promote demand-led employment approaches to the forefront of employment policy.
- Appointed to the National VET Equity Advisory Council (NVEAC). NVEAC was a national expert advisory body on equity for Commonwealth, state and territory Ministers responsible for vocational education and training.
- Documented 11 case studies on the school business community partnership broker program for The Smith Family.
- Change project for The Benevolent Society which included authorship of a major paper *Our clients are your clients – bringing services together to tackle family joblessness*.
- Research and authorship of *More Forces at Work: How 10 Nonprofits Tackled Unemployment and More* for Jobs Australia.
- Research, consultation and authorship of ACOSS Submissions to the *Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Not for Profit Sector*, 2009.

2006-2008 **Consultant & Employment Lead, Social Ventures Australia, (SVA)**

Responsible for leading the Employment focus area and managing a team of three and for researching and developing SVA's Ageing Knowledge paper and co-author of Knowledge paper on Indigenous community building.

Achievements:

- Awareness-raising with key stakeholders, including a major article in *The Weekend Australian* on social enterprise.
- Documenting and refining the Social Enterprise Hub model and expanded the number of sites from 1 to 4, including an Indigenous Social Enterprise Hub with Yarnteen Indigenous Corporation.
- Refined business model for Homeshare program adopted in full by The Benevolent Society.
- Successful engagement of key ageing experts and investors.

2004-2005 **Director, London Employer Coalition (LEC), London, UK**

Part of the National Employment Panel, the LEC comprised chief executives and leaders from London's key private and public sector employers. I managed the LEC including its annual awards program.

Achievements:

- Successfully engaged businesses in the design, delivery and enhanced performance of welfare to work programmes.
- Successfully led the LEC through a challenging time.

2001-2004 **Research Director, National Employment Panel, London, UK**

The National Employment Panel (NEP) was an employer-led organisation, appointed by the Chancellor, which advised the Government on UK labour market policies and performance.

Achievements:

- Responsible for the successful research and design of the Ambition programme, a ground-breaking initiative focusing on engaging employers in the design and delivery of training 3,500 disadvantaged jobseekers in well-paid occupations with skill shortages in the UK. Conducted an ACOSS seminar on Ambition in Sydney, favourably covered by *The Australian*, 13 August 2004.
- Strong contributor to the NEP Senior Management Team with a focus on improving business planning, organisational development and performance.

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1995-2000 **Adviser and Researcher, New York and Tokyo**

Key clients included Public/Private Ventures, New York City, USA; Community Development Research Center, New School for Social Research, New York City and Japanese National Committee of the International Council of Social Welfare, Tokyo, Japan.

Achievements:

- In the US, responsible for advising on sectoral employment programs; writing proposals and assessing innovative employment programs.
- In Tokyo, facilitated meetings of the Japan Study Program and interviewed overseas scholarship candidates.

1993-1994 **Consultant, Minister for Social Security Hon Peter Baldwin, MP**

Led family and child support policy and responsible for liaison with the social welfare sector. Provided high level analysis and policy development; gave written and oral briefings, including legislative and Cabinet briefings; and liaised with Ministerial offices, Parliamentary committees, Members of Parliament, senior government officials, senior journalists and the non-profit sector.

Achievements:

- Significant input to income support component of 1994 Governmental White Paper on Employment Opportunities, through the Cabinet assessment and endorsement process and subsequently briefed senior journalists when announced. Achieved new reforms that encouraged part-time and temporary work for welfare recipients and received extensive media coverage demonstrating the advantages for unemployed people.
- Supported the policy to transfer the dependent tax rebate to a family payment (“\$1B from the wallet to the purse.”)
- Responsible for negotiating social security legislation through the Senate including with crossbench Senators.
- Advocated on behalf of retaining and expanding successful program assisting single parent welfare recipients receive jobs, education and training.

1990-1993 **Policy and Media Officer, Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)**

Liaised with member organisations, developed policy, wrote media releases, lobbied government and developed strong relationships with senior journalists. Represented ACOSS at Parliamentary Committee Hearings and in Ministerial and Prime Ministerial delegations.

Achievements:

- Designed and executed a major advocacy campaign within the social welfare movement and media against the Opposition 1993 election proposal to cut \$10 billion in social policy funds.

1989-1990 **Project Officer, Sydney Welfare Rights Centre**

Achievements:

- Assistant Editor of the inaugural edition of *The Independent Social Security Handbook*, a 400-page guide to the Australian welfare system, including detailed description of major payments, eligibility rules, advice on appeal and review rights.

1988 **Policy and Media Adviser, Federal Shadow Minister for Social Security & Retirement Income**

1985-1987 **Campaign Executive, General Election Unit, Social Democratic Party, UK**

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HONORARY LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE POSITIONS

2011-2014 **President of the Management Committee, Bronte Activity Centre**

Non-profit parent led NSW association which runs the Bronte Public School before and after care centre.

2009-2018 **Member of the National Facilitating Group, Anti-Poverty Week, Australia**

2004-5 **Member of the Management Committee, The Nest Pre-school Nursery, London,**

1997 **New York Coordinator, International Council on Social Service (ICSW)**

ICSW is an umbrella group for social welfare organisations in 70 countries.

1996 **Chair of the Board of Directors, Tokyo International Learning Community (TILC), Tokyo, Japan**

The only international school in Tokyo providing education for students with developmental delays and disability.

1993-1994 **Member of the Advisory Committee, Post Adoption Resource Centre, Sydney**

1991-1993 **Member of the Board of Management, Sydney Welfare Rights Centre**

TERTIARY EDUCATION

Masters in Non-profit Management, New School University, New York, USA, 1999.

Bachelor of Economics, University of Queensland, Australia, 1989.

Bachelor of Business Communication, Queensland University of Technology, Australia, 1982.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Opinion Pieces:

- [Here's a \\$75 fix that would help solve Australia's poverty problem](#), SMH, 14/10/19.
- **Welfare 'blowout' doesn't add up: debate the facts**, AFR, 24/1/14.
- **Gonski backflip leaves Indigenous students in limbo**, AFR, 4/12/13.
- [Long term jobless miss out](#), AFR, 15/4/13.

Policy submissions and program reviews:

- [AND submissions](#), December 2015-March 2018 plus [2016 Employer Guide](#)
- **Improving young people's educational outcomes through school business community partnerships**, The Smith Family's Partnership Brokers, The Smith Family, 2/2014.
- **ACOSS Submissions to the Productivity Commission Inquiry into the Not for Profit Sector**, 5/2009 and 11/2009.

Major publications:

- [Anti-Poverty Week website](#) launched July 2019 including [Fast Facts](#).
- Assistant Editor of the inaugural, **The Independent Social Security Handbook**, Welfare Rights Centre & Pluto Press, Sydney, 1990.

Go to www.toniwren.com for samples of work, media and presentations.