

# Our Board & CEO

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## Dr Ellen Skladzien, Chief Executive Officer



Dr Ellen Skladzien has extensive experience in advocacy, leadership and strategic management positions within the not-for-profit sector. She has expertise in driving change in the disability, health and aged care system through evidenced-based advocacy.

Ellen was previously the Senior Executive Manager of Policy, Programs and Communications at Alzheimer's Australia. During her time at Alzheimer's Australia she has led the advocacy work of the organisation which resulted in dementia being recognised as a national health priority, funding for improvements to the health care system for people with dementia, and most recently support for a program to tackle social isolation and stigma associated with dementia.

Ellen is passionate about ensuring that the voices of people with lived experience are at the centre of the work she does. At Alzheimer's Australia, she led a number of initiatives to support people with dementia to set priorities and strategy in advocacy, programs and research including setting up the first Consumer Dementia Research Network in Australia.

Ellen has a Master's degree in Clinical Neuropsychology and a Ph.D. in Cognitive Psychology from Washington University in St Louis. She has published in peer-reviewed journals and been a lecturer for courses in Statistics, Experimental Psychology and Developmental Psychology.

## Angus Graham, Chair, Independent Director

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Angus Graham is Chairman of Down Syndrome Australia as well as CEO of DMP Asset Management. He sits on the Advisory Committee on Intellectual Disability of the NDIS. He is a Director & Trustee of the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation and the Mary-Jane Lewis Scholarship Trust. He is a past deputy chairman of the Leukaemia Foundation of Australia and a past director of the Melbourne Football Club and Australian Federation of Disability Organisations.

Angus is a father to a young woman with Down syndrome and has been a long-time advocate for people with intellectual disabilities. He is dedicated to ensuring that people with Down syndrome have a national voice and that Down Syndrome Australia is recognised as a respected and strong advocate for people with Down syndrome, our carers and the state and territory organisations that serve them.

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## Claire Mitchell, Independent Director

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Claire Mitchell is passionate about being a voice for people with Down syndrome. Claire believes in having a positive attitude and that the best support outcomes for the Down syndrome community happen when everyone is working together as a team.

Claire is currently the Queensland representative on the Down Syndrome Advisory Network (DSAN) and chair of the QDSAN. She is a confident public speaker and presents to university students and different organizations. Claire works part time as an office administration assistant at the Queensland Children's Hospital School.

Claire's interests are, being committed to her roles on the committees which she is a member of, keeping fit with gym and yoga, being a member of Down Syndrome Queensland's 'Together Red' choir, social activities with friends, story writing and spending time with family.

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## Grant Lindsay, Independent Director, Northern Territory

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Grant is married with two children. Residing in Darwin, Grant is currently the Director Business and Strategic Planning for the Association of Independent Schools NT. He has been the president of the Down Syndrome Association of the Northern Territory since 2006 and a member of the Down Syndrome Australia board since its inception. Grant worked in the non-government education sector for fourteen years in the corporate services and governance side of schools, previously he had a similar role in a health research institute following 25 years in the Australian Regular Army. He is also the Deputy President of Carpentaria Disability Services, a long term Rotarian and Rugby tragic.

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## Michelle Somerville, Independent Director

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Michelle is a chartered accountant having worked in the profession at KPMG, for over 26 years. Michelle and her husband John have five children aged from 7 to 16, and the youngest, Sean, has Down syndrome. She is currently the treasurer of Down Syndrome Australia, and is passionate about helping to make a difference for all people with Down syndrome in Australia

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## Alicia Flack-Koné, Director, Australian Capital Territory

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Alicia Flack-Koné is the mother of Kura who is enjoying school culture and playing soccer. Alicia has held the role of president since 2011 and vice president of ACT Down Syndrome since 2010. She is an early childhood professional and has extensive experience as a teacher, mentor, professional learning and development officer, and university adviser/tutor. She is committed to progressing the aspirations and interests of people with Down syndrome.

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## Dr Rhonda Faragher, Independent Director

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Dr Rhonda Faragher is Deputy Head of the School of Education at the University of Queensland and Director of the Down Syndrome Research Program within the School of Education. She is the Chair of the Down Syndrome Special Interest Research Group of IASSIDD, the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and a board member of the IASSIDD Academy, which works to translate research into practice around the world. She is a trustee and board member of Down Syndrome International.

In 2009 she was awarded a Commonwealth of Australia Endeavour Executive Award to travel to Singapore to work with the Down Syndrome Association of Singapore and the National Institute of Education, Singapore.

Rhonda's research focuses on inclusive mathematics education practices, specifically for students with Down syndrome. Rhonda has a daughter with Down syndrome.

## Katrina Enos, Director, Victoria

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Katrina's uncle had Down Syndrome so she grew up with a strong sense of advocacy for people living with disability and an understanding of some of the challenges which families of people living with disability can face. Joining as a Board member in 2014 Katrina's main area of interest is to represent the needs of older people with Down Syndrome and their families. Working for NAB, Katrina's professional skills include finance, project management, governance and strategy. Previous roles on the Board of the Cerebral Palsy Support Network as both Treasurer and Vice President helped her build a broader understanding of the disability sector. In her spare time, she loves yoga and is Treasurer of the Scottish Terrier Club of Victoria.

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## Catia Malaquias, Western Australia

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Catia Malaquias is a senior lawyer at the State Solicitor's Office of Western Australia. She previously worked in national commercial law firms and has 17 years of legal experience. Catia is also a Director of the Attitude Foundation Limited and the founder of the Starting With Julius project.

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## John Kearns, Director, Tasmania

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John is married to Debbie and they have three children aged from 12 to 19. The youngest, Maeghan, has Down syndrome.

John is a current Director and past President of Down Syndrome Tasmania, having been involved with DST since 2007. Working in the commercial area at Tasmanian Alkaloids, John's professional skills include operations management, supply chain and strategy development.

Joining as a board member in 2017, John's main interests are providing access to education and employment opportunities for people with Down syndrome. John is also the Chair of Self Help Workplace Tasmania and a Life Member of Apex Australia.

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## David Fuller, Treasurer, Director, Queensland

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David joined the Board of Down Syndrome Australia in 2018 and is the Chair of Down Syndrome Queensland.

David and his wife Annmaree have five children, including their youngest, Sophie with Down Syndrome.

David aspires to inclusive, healthy and fulfilling lives for the Down syndrome community. He has 25 years global executive experience with public and private companies and brings expertise in commercial, corporate governance and strategy to the Board.

David is a Member of Institute of Engineers, Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds an MBA from the Melbourne Business School.

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## Hayley Warren, Director, New South Wales

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Hayley Warren joined the Down Syndrome Australia board in 2019 and is the Chair of the Board of Down Syndrome NSW. Hayley has been involved with the Down Syndrome associations of Western Australia and New South Wales for many years, as coordinator of Aim High in WA and Up! Club in NSW, before joining the NSW board in 2017.

Hayley has an older sister, Sarah, who has Down syndrome. Having grown up in regional Western Australia, Hayley is committed to ensuring that all people with Down syndrome have equal opportunities and access to services, regardless of their location.

Hayley is a lawyer with over 10 years experience practicing in the areas of insurance, construction and commercial law.

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