

Roger Chao

B.A. (Politics/Philosophy), B.Ec, Grad.Dip.Bus, MBA, GAICD, FGIA, FAIM, BJ

## SUMMARY

Roger is an experienced Director having been Chair of and a member of numerous private, public and NFP Boards and Committees. He has a strong background in social research, consulting, policy development, operations management, business development, governance, risk management and strategic planning. He has also held CEO and General Management positions in the health, human services and education sectors. Roger brings strong governance experience, commercial acumen, risk management and strategy skills combined with a passion for innovation and business development.

## CURRENT BOARD, COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust - Director

Formed in March 2010 under the Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003, SMCT administers the Bunurong and Cheltenham Memorial Parks, Brighton General, Cheltenham Pioneer, Dandenong Community, Melbourne General, Springvale Botanical and St Kilda cemeteries. SMCT also administers a Preservation Fund, which ensures that resources will be available to maintain all eight cemeteries in perpetuity (for all time). SMCT cares for the needs of approximately 12,000 families each year with an annual turnover of around \$60m and \$400m in assets.

Australian Institute of Technical Training – Board Member

AITT is an industry-focused institution, providing students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in their chosen careers. As a VET provider, AITT have always designed and delivered its courses to meet the known resourcing demands **of industry. AITT's VET operation currently offers 21** qualifications across business, hospitality, beauty, automotive and the commercial arts industries.

Merit Protection Board (nominee of the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training)

The Merit Protection Board is an independent statutory body established under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 to:

- advise the Minister and Secretary to the Department of Education and Training about principles of merit and equity to be applied in the teaching service;
- hear reviews and appeals in relation to decisions made under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (except Part 2.4, Division 9A - Unsatisfactory performance and Division 10 - Misconduct), or any other Act;
- advise the Minister or the Secretary about any matter referred to them by the Minister or the Secretary relating to merit and equity in the teaching service; and
- hear reviews and appeals in relation to any decision prescribed by the regulations to be a decision in respect of which there is a right of review or appeal to a Merit Protection Board.

### **Therapeutic Goods Administration – Specialist Advisor**

The TGA is part of the Australian Government Department of Health, and is responsible for regulating therapeutic goods including medicines, biologicals and medical devices. The TGA administers the Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 (the Act), applying a risk management approach designed to ensure therapeutic goods supplied in Australia meet acceptable standards of quality, safety and efficacy (performance), when necessary. The work of the TGA is based on applying scientific and clinical expertise to decision-making, to ensure that the benefits to consumers outweigh any risks associated with the use of therapeutic goods.

Bail Justice

Bail Justices are appointed by the Governor in Council under section 14 of the Honorary Justices Act 2014 and conduct:

- remand hearings in respect of adults who are held in police custody under the Bail Act 1977;

- remand hearings involving children who are held in police custody and applications for Interim Accommodation Orders under the Children, Youth and Families Act 2005; and
- Bail Justices also have the power to witness statutory declarations and receive affidavits within Victoria.

## PAST BOARD, COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

**Annecto – Board Member and Finance, Risk and Audit subcommittee member**

Annecto assists people and their families who experience disability and ageing to participate in their community. Annecto have approximately 250 partnerships within the community, which includes business, community organisations and government (local, state and federal) that focus on people living good lives in the community. Annecto is currently operating in metropolitan Melbourne and Sydney, the Loddon Mallee and Grampians areas of regional Victoria and the Orana Far West region of NSW. Annecto has an annual turnover of \$40m and employs over 500 staff.

**Hazelwood Mine Fire Community Recovery Committee – Chair**

Established in the recovery phase of the Hazelwood Mine Fire to coordinate the recovery effort with all levels of government, the local community, **the NFP and private sector. It's terms of reference were to:**

- Create a Community Recovery Plan (CRP) with initiatives and projects to support community recovery and wellbeing developed through the engagement and input of the community.
- Prioritise and implement items in the CRP.
- Monitor the progress of recovery in the affected community.
- Identify community needs and resource requirements.
- Undertake community recovery activities, including health and wellbeing, recreational, economic development, sporting and social events, as determined by the circumstances and the committee.

**Arts Access Victoria – Board Member – and member of the Finance Sub-Committee**

**Arts Access Victoria (AAV) is the state's leading arts and disability organisation. AAV's** focus is building the capacity of the arts, disability, community and education sectors to deliver increased and improved opportunities for arts and cultural participation for people with a disability. AAV provides training, resources, mentorships, advice and information services for organisations and individuals from both the arts and disability sectors.

**Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Regional Council – Deputy Chair**

The role of the ACFE Regional Council is to:

- advise on and monitor the delivery of adult community education and the strength of the community based organisations providing it;
- **support Victoria's Learn Local adult community education organisations, to focus on quality** improvement and sustainability, be responsive to local/regional individual, community and industry needs, and to develop stronger and more visible networks while maintaining the characteristics and approaches that are their historical strength; and
- work with Government to meet the needs of learners facing barriers to participation and attainment including those from low-SES localities, early school leavers, low skilled and vulnerable workers, Indigenous people, unemployed people and people with a disability.

**Headway Gippsland – Board Member and Chair of the Constitutional Reform subcommittee**

Headway Gippsland supports people with acquired brain injury (ABI) and their families, carers and service providers. They also work with all levels of government and the media to ensure the needs of our membership are heard and acted upon. Headway Gippsland is an independent, non-profit organisation committed to enabling people with ABI and a range of cognitive, sensory and physical disabilities to re-establish skills in all areas of independent living based on their individual choices.

**ANZEC – Chair**

ANZEC is official Australian & New Zealand chapter of The Explorers Club which is a multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research and the ideal that it is vital to

preserve the instinct to explore. Since its inception in 1904, the Club has served as a meeting point and unifying force for explorers and scientists worldwide. ANZEC promotes the scientific exploration of land, sea, air, and space by supporting research and education in the physical, natural and biological sciences.

**The Club's members have been responsible for an illustrious series of famous firsts: First to the North Pole, first to the South Pole, first to the summit of Mount Everest, first to the deepest point in the ocean, first to the surface of the moon—all accomplished by our members.**

Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC) – Member

The Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC) reviews all research conducted by Monash University staff or students involving human participants and primarily considers issues that constitute integrity, respect for persons, beneficence, justice, consent, research merit and safety. The primary role of MUHREC is to protect the welfare and the rights of participants in research and the primary responsibility of each member is to decide, independently, whether, in his or her opinion, the conduct of each research proposal will so protect participants.

Australian College of Optometry – Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) Member

The mission of the ACO is to promote the visual health and wellbeing of the communities they serve by leading the profession to build its knowledge base, attain and advance clinical skills and deliver the best possible optometric care. The functions of the Human Research Ethics Committee are to inquire into, advise and recommend on ethical and legal implications, which arise in relation to research and teaching activities and to provide for monitoring of those research projects and teaching activities until completion.

Tourism Advisory Board – Member

The **Tourism Advisory Board is a committee to Latrobe City Council. The Board's purpose is to:**

- Provide advice to Council on policies and strategies for furthering the development of tourism within Latrobe City;
- Provide advice on tourism related issues that also have an impact on the wider community;
- Act as the primary conduit for representation of the tourism industry to Council; and
- Provide guidance, support and an avenue for consultation and exchange between Council and the Latrobe City Business Tourism Association Inc.
- Provide strategic direction to Council in regard to tourism related issues.
- Assist Latrobe City and the tourism industry to establish positive working relationships with other Gippsland Tourism bodies and state governing bodies such as Tourism Victoria and the Victorian Tourism Industry Council and ensure that tourism development in Latrobe City is in line and in partnership with regional, state and federal strategies.
- Act as a sounding board/think tank for potential strategies for Latrobe City.

Australia Day Committee – Australia Day Ambassador

Presented the annual Australia Day Address on behalf of the Department of Premier and Cabinet.

## EDUCATION

Master of Business Administration - Curtin Graduate School of Business

Company Directors Course – Australian Institute of Company Directors

Graduate Diploma of Business - Curtin Graduate School of Business

Bachelor of Economics – Monash University

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) – Politics/Philosophy - Monash University

Bail Justice Course – Department of Justice

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD)

Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia (FGIA)

Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management (FAIM)

Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society (FRGS)  
Royal Victorian Association of Honorary Justices (RVAHJ)

## AWARDS

Commendation for the Sir John Monash Medal  
Australian Geographic Young Adventurer of the Year  
Monash University Sports Bursary – Elite Athlete Support Program

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

### CEO – Kinders Together

Kinders Together is not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the provision of high quality, community based education and care services. Kinders Together currently manages 20 education and care services with over 150 employees. The delivery of high quality education and care services is strengthened through the provision of a committed professional workforce, considered and innovative planning, and genuine community partnerships. Kinders Together is governed by a Board of Management.

Honorary Research Fellow – La Trobe University  
School of Psychology and Public Health

## PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

### General Manager – Penington Institute

Penington Institute advances health and community safety by connecting substance use research to practical action. The foundation of our work is the pursuit of sound evidence and a moral commitment to human dignity, autonomy and respect.

Penington Institute collaborates with, and represents a broad range of sectors and organisations to:

- Identify and respond to specific substance use problems and their causes.
- Enhance awareness of the health, social and economic drivers of drug-related harm.
- Promote rational, integrated approaches to reduce the burden of death, disease and social problems related to problematic substance use.
- Build and share knowledge to empower individuals, families and the community to take charge of substance use issues.
- Better equip front-line workers to respond effectively to the needs of those with problematic drug use.