

Governance Update

The Cathy Freeman Foundation wishes to announce some governance changes.



We announce that Professor Gregory Phillips is departing as Foundation Chair after a very successful two and a half years of exceptional leadership. Gregory is from the Waanyi and Jaru Aboriginal Australian peoples, and comes from Cloncurry and Mount Isa. He is a medical anthropologist, with twenty-five years' experience in leading change.

Gregory's time at the helm has been incredibly positive and successful. He has been instrumental in ensuring CFF has excellent Aboriginal leadership, pivotal in working with management to ensure a more stable footing for core program funding, clear and exciting strategic vision and plans, along with leading the Foundation Governance with the establishment of finance and education sub-committees.

The Foundation thanks Greg immensely for his efforts and time with us and looks forward to keeping him a close supporter and friend for years to come.

Gregory will leave the Foundation as Chair on 30 June 2020 and we wish him the very best in his endeavours from here.

PROFESSOR PHILLIPS said: "After two and a half years in the role of Chair of this inspirational foundation, I am very proud of what we've accomplished in that time. I am sad to be leaving so soon, to concentrate on some family and health priorities, but I will always be a steadfast supporter of CFF and Catherine's vision. I am very glad that such an amazing leader in Professor Behrendt will help continue the excellent work of the Foundation"



The incoming Chair will be Distinguished Professor Larissa Behrendt AO who is a Eualayai/Gamillaroi woman. Currently the Director of Research and Academic Programs at the Jumbunna Indigenous House of Learning at the University of Technology, Sydney.

She is a graduate of the UNSW Law School and has a Masters and SJD from Harvard Law School. A Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia and a founding member of the Australian Academy of Law. She has published numerous textbooks on Indigenous legal issues. An award-winning filmmaker and won the 2018 Australian Directors Guild Award for best Direction of a Documentary Film for *After the Apology*. Larissa won the 2002 David Uniapon Award and a 2005 Commonwealth Writer's Prize for her novel *Home*. Her second novel, *Legacy*, won a Victorian Premiers Literary Award.

Her most recent book is *Finding Eliza: Power and Colonial Storytelling* (2016, UQP). She is a board member of the Sydney Festival, the Australian Museum and the Sydney Community Fund. Larissa was

awarded the 2009 NAIDOC Person of the Year award and 2011 NSW Australian of the Year. She is the host of Speaking Out on ABC Radio.

The Foundation is thrilled to have Larissa joining us as Chair from 1 July 2020.

PROFESSOR BEHRENDT said: *“I am extremely proud to be taking on the privilege of Chairing the Cathy Freeman Foundation and building on the work done by the Board and staff in working towards Catherine's exciting vision for CFF. I want to acknowledge the leadership of Greg Phillips and look forward to working with the CFF team on important community-based work they are so committed to”*



As further update, we have also recently made a significant and positive appointment to the Board in Kate Healy

Kate is a purpose-driven leader with experience across several industries in Australia and New Zealand. An experienced lawyer, Kate has a background in commercial property law with her most senior role being a partner in a national law firm. More recently, she gained commercial operational experience while spending 4.5 as COO of an Auckland-based Maori owned entity where she led multiple commercial projects and social development initiatives. Kate is currently a senior member of the team at PwC's Indigenous Consulting, based in Melbourne.

She is also an experienced non-executive director, having held these roles in both commercial and philanthropic organisations.

KATE said: *“I’m excited to get the chance to join the CFF Board and play a role in supporting Jade and the fantastic CFF team on the ground. Education opens so many doors, and the work that the Foundation does to inspire Indigenous children to attend school and engage with learning is so important.”*

The Board has also established two sub-committees to further strengthen our governance arrangements.

- **Finance and Audit Sub-Committee** – members are Richard Thomas – Treasurer, Kate Healy, Campbell Lobb and Odette Best.
- **Community and Education Sub-Committee** members are Catherine Freeman - Founder, Nazareth Youngblutt and Don Carroll.

RICHARD THOMAS Foundation Treasurer said: *“Having sat on the Board of Cathy Freeman Foundation for over 10 years, I was saddened to receive the news of Professor Greg Phillips’ departure as our Chair. Greg has provided incredible service and leadership to CFF and leaves the Foundation in a much better place. During his tenure Greg strengthened our brand awareness as one of Australia’s leading Indigenous educational not-for-profit organisations and engaged with all our stakeholders in a professional and empathetic manner. Greg has given his time generously onboarding and mentoring our CEO Jade Colgan, leading the design and implementation of our strategy, establishing two sub-committees, managing delicate community relationships, and sourcing vital funding for the long-term sustainability of our community programs. It’s been wonderful having Kate Healy join the Board and bring her expertise to the Foundation. Professor Larissa Behrendt joins CFF with an impressive background, and I am extremely grateful to Greg for introducing such an impressive candidate to take over his role as Chair. I am very much looking forward to working with Larissa as we continue our vital work in changing the lives of Indigenous children through the power of education.”*

The Foundation looks towards many more positive steps forward with Larissa at the Helm. The Journey continues.

Thank you,
Cathy Freeman Foundation Board of Directors