



## **MEDIA RELEASE - NOVEMBER 17, 2021**

### **The Valuing Children Initiative welcomes new ambassador, Dr Glenda Kickett**

The Valuing Children Initiative (VCI) is proud to announce Dr Glenda Kickett as the newest member of our Ambassador team.

VCI ambassadors are true child champions within their communities and Dr Kickett's wealth of knowledge and experience will be an invaluable addition.

Dr Kickett is highly respected for the significant contribution she has made to the West Australian community, and nationally.

Her childhood experiences have led to a life of advocating for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

"I was a child in care in the 70s and I grew up in a non-Indigenous foster home. There were good and bad experiences, but leaving care I didn't really have a sense of my identity and culture and so that's what I advocate for in the work that I do," she said.

"We don't value the voices of our children and young people enough and I think this is a great initiative to work in that way and listen to their voices, what they are saying, what's really happening for them in their lives and the things that are impacting them.

"Anything that highlights the needs of children and how we can respond to those needs as a sector, but also as a community, is really important."

VCI Development Executive Madeleine McLeod said she looks forward to working with Dr Kickett in the near future.

"Not only is Glenda a talented professional in her chosen field, she is also extremely generous in her community advocacy and understands the vital importance of supporting and valuing children," Ms McLeod said.

"Glenda brings a fresh perspective and a wealth of experience to the VCI. We have no doubt she will use her influence to help drive change to a society in which the needs of all children are prioritised."

Dr Kickett joins Colin Pettit, Dr Sue Packer AM, Bella Burgemeister, Dr Brian Babington, Adj Prof Anita Ghose, Dr. Sandy Chong, and Claire Orange who will continue to lend their talents and voices to the work of the VCI.

"We look forward to working with Glenda and all of our ambassadors as we continue to advocate for a society where all children flourish," Ms McLeod said.

Dr Kickett's appointment will be made official at the VCI Conversations with Children's Commissioners event on Friday, November 19.

Special guest speakers include WA Commissioner for Children and Young People Colin Pettit, and National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds.

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#### **Media enquiries:**

Amy Green, VCI Communications & Promotion Officer

E: [agreen@valuingchildren.com.au](mailto:agreen@valuingchildren.com.au)

P: 08 9325 6644

M: 0412 582 512

## About the Valuing Children Initiative

The Valuing Children Initiative (VCI) was established in 2016 to inspire Australians to value all children, promote understanding that children's wellbeing is the shared responsibility of the entire community, and ensure children are at the forefront of our considerations.

VCI's vision is the creation of a society in which all children in Australia experience the caring, safe, and supported childhood they deserve. The VCI recognises the important contributions children make to our society in the here and now and advocates to ensure children are treated with dignity and respect. This includes ensuring children and young people are provided with opportunities to express their views and opinions.

## About Glenda Kickett

Glenda, a Whadjuk and Ballardong woman from the Bibbulmun Noongar Nation, is highly respected for the significant contribution she has made to the West Australian community, and nationally. Her current role is Manager, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Engagement /Therapeutic Services - Aboriginal Children and Families at the Australian Childhood Foundation and she was previously Executive Manager at Djooraminda-CentreCare for thirteen years.

Glenda is the Chairperson of NAIDOC Perth Inc., Board Director of Wungening Aboriginal Corporation, Co-Chair Social Reinvestment WA and she sits on the boards of the Noongar Child Protection Council, Glass Jars, Shooting Stars Australia, Netball WA and Equus Bonding.

Glenda has a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of Western Australia, a Master of Arts in Indigenous Research and Development from Curtin University and a Doctor of Philosophy through the School of Social Work at the University of Western Australia.

## About the VCI Ambassador Program

Ambassadors are a significant part of the Valuing Children team in raising awareness and support for valuing children. Each volunteering and providing a different perspective on child advocacy, our Ambassadors contribute personal, sector, and evidence-based experience in prioritising children.

Collaboratively, they represent the community, health, global, not for profit, corporate, and education sectors, with a common interest in Australian children's future.