



# PROOF OF BIRTH

Published in *Proof of Birth* in 2015 by Future Leaders ([www.futureleaders.com.au](http://www.futureleaders.com.au))

## About the authors

**Alice Barter** is a human rights lawyer with the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA in Perth. She previously worked as a criminal lawyer for the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA in the Pilbara.

**Alainnah Calabrò** is a public servant and examined birth registration processes in NSW and international human rights law as part of an honours thesis at Monash University Law Faculty in 2013.

**Melissa Castan** teaches law in the Monash University Law Faculty and is Deputy Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law. She specialises in Indigenous rights and constitutional law, and is a chief investigator on the ARC Linkage Grant project ‘Closing the Gap on Indigenous Birth Registration’.

**Kate Freeman** is a Project Officer at the Maternity Services Education Program, a state-wide education program based at the Royal Women’s Hospital, Melbourne. Kate’s work focuses on clinical engagement — working together with mainstream services, Aboriginal health organisations and local community to achieve systemic change and improve cultural safety in maternity care.

**Paula Gerber** is an Associate Professor in the Monash University Law Faculty and Deputy Director of the Castan

Centre for Human Rights Law. She specialises in children's rights and is a chief investigator on the ARC Linkage Grant project 'Closing the Gap on Indigenous Birth Registration'.

**Rod Hagen** has worked as an anthropologist with Aboriginal peoples in many parts of Australia since 1975. He is undertaking research into Indigenous birth registration in Australia in the course of undertaking a PhD through Monash Law Faculty, under the auspices of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law and the Monash Indigenous Centre.

**David John** is Registrar-General at the Queensland Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages and current co-chair of the National Civil Registration and Statistics Improvement Committee (NCRSIC). David represents NCRSIC and Queensland on a number of state and national committees and working groups pertaining to Civil Registration, Identity Security and Statistics.

**AJ Lanyon** joined the Australian Bureau of Statistics in July 2010 as the Regional Director of the Queensland office, and Branch Head for births, deaths, causes of deaths, private health establishment and marriages and divorces collections for Australia. She has a range of experience, including undertaking applied social research for universities and managing research and evaluation programs for strategic social and community policy areas for state and commonwealth governments.

**Jack Regester** works at UNICEF Australia and has five years of professional experience in human rights policy

and advocacy. Jack's thematic expertise includes minority and cultural rights, the rights of Indigenous peoples and children's rights. He has previously worked as an advisor at the Australian Human Rights Commission and for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Advisory Group.

**Sophie Shugg** is the Senior Child Rights Specialist at Plan International Australia. She has over eight years' experience in child rights and child protection policy, advocacy, and programing; working in domestic, international, and emergency contexts.

**Cate Sumner** has worked in the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific for over 20 years, focusing on access to justice, human rights and judicial reform. She is currently working with the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice on a Legal Identity Program that is looking at increasing access to legal identity documents for women who are poor, vulnerable children and people with disability. The views expressed by Cate Sumner in Chapter 11 are her personal opinions, and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Australian Government, with whom she is currently working.

**Jacqueline Watkins**, born in Darwin, raised in the Alice, has spent most of her working life in education. However, a few years ago she moved into the health field and is currently the Manager, Aboriginal Health Unit at Western Health, Victoria.

**Will Winter** is a strategic business consultant specialising in local community development. He has delivered projects in remote Australia to help strengthen Indigenous communities. Will is the founder and coordinator of the Minimbah Project — a national coalition of agencies and individuals working to streamline birth registration and provide ‘free’ birth certificates, as an automatic right of citizenship for all Australians.