

## STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

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The Institute was established in February 1980 under Part XIVA of the *Family Law Act 1975*. As described in s.114B(2) of Part XIVA of the Act, the functions of the Institute are:

- (a) to promote, by the conduct, encouragement and coordination of research and other appropriate means, the identification of, and development of understanding of, the factors affecting family and marital stability in Australia, with the object of promoting the protection of the family as the natural and fundamental group unit in society; and
- (b) to advise and assist the Minister in relation to the making of grants, and with the approval of the Minister to make grants, out of moneys available under appropriations made by the Parliament, for purposes related to the functions of the Institute and the supervising of the employment of grants so made.

Carrying out these broad functions involves the Institute in the following areas of activity:

**Research:** studying and evaluating matters that affect the social and economic wellbeing of all Australian families.

**Information:** informing government and the policy making process about Institute findings.

**Promotion:** promoting improved support for families, including measures which prevent family disruption and enhance marital and family stability.

**Dissemination:** communicating the results of Institute and other family research to organisations concerned with family wellbeing, and to the wider general community.

More specifically, the following functions are performed:

- monitoring demographic and social changes in Australian families and identifying implications of such changes for social policy;
- conducting research on the operation and effects of the *Family Law Act* and other legislation affecting the rights and obligations of family members;
- conducting research on factors influencing how families function with the object of understanding the consequences of social policy changes and recommending relevant means of promoting family wellbeing and stability;
- conducting research, consultations and reporting on the effect of Federal and State legislation and proposed changes in legislation and programs on the ways families function;
- disseminating information and research results via media, information publications, public seminars and other means, with the object of improving public understanding of factors affecting marital and family wellbeing;
- encouraging broader research on Australian families; and
- acting as a national centre of information about Australian families.

### Operation of the Institute

From its establishment in 1980 until June 1989, the Institute operated within the Attorney-General's portfolio. In June 1989,

the Institute was transferred to the portfolio of the Minister for Social Security. Following the Federal Election of March 1993, the Institute was moved to the Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services portfolio, with transfer arrangements formally effected from 1 July 1993. In March 1994, the portfolio was restructured and the Institute relocated to the portfolio of Human Services and Health. Further restructuring in March 1996, saw the portfolio renamed Health and Family Services.

In October 1998 the Institute was relocated to the newly created portfolio of Family and Community Services. The responsible Minister is the Minister for Family and Community Services, Senator the Hon. Amanda Vanstone. Senator Vanstone was sworn in by the Governor-General as Minister for Family and Community Services and Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Status of Women on 30 January 2001.

Part XIVA of the *Family Law Act 1975*, as amended by the *Family Law Reform Act 1995*, provides for the structure of the Institute to consist of a Director and a Board of Management appointed by the Governor-General, staff members employed by the Director on behalf of the Commonwealth, and other people engaged in the same manner to assist as consultants or otherwise. The Director and other Board members hold office for a period not exceeding seven years, as is specified in the instrument of appointment, and are eligible for reappointment. Staff numbers at 30 June 2002 were 59 people including the Director. Of the complement of 59 staff, 24 were part-time staff. In addition, the Institute hires fixed-term and casual staff, and consultants for specific research projects or functional tasks as they are needed.

The general direction of the Institute is entrusted to the Board of Management which comprises the Director and four or more other members. Subject to the Board's general direction, the Director is responsible for the management of the affairs of the Institute.

The Board is responsible for setting broad guidelines for the operation of the Institute. Its role is to ensure that the Director has established appropriate plans, policies and procedures for the efficient and effective management of the Institute.

The Minister may request the Board to arrange for the Institute to engage in a particular activity and, after consultation with the Board, specify the priority to be given to the activity. Any requests made by the Minister are to be specified in the Institute's Annual Report along with the priority accorded them and progress made in giving effect to them. No such requests were made in 2001–2002.

The Institute conducts research for other bodies on a contract basis. Contract research projects undertaken during 2001–2002 are described in the Research Program and the Financial Statements Sections of this report.

### **Election and Ministerial arrangements**

Following the November 2001 Federal election, Senator the Hon. Amanda Vanstone was reappointed as Minister for Family and Community Services. The portfolio was expanded to include responsibility for youth affairs and programs in support of Indigenous young people that had previously been located within the education portfolio.

The Hon. Larry Anthony MP was appointed as Minister for Children and Youth Affairs.

Mr Ross Cameron MP was appointed as Parliamentary Secretary for Family and Community Services.

### Outcomes and outputs, and performance

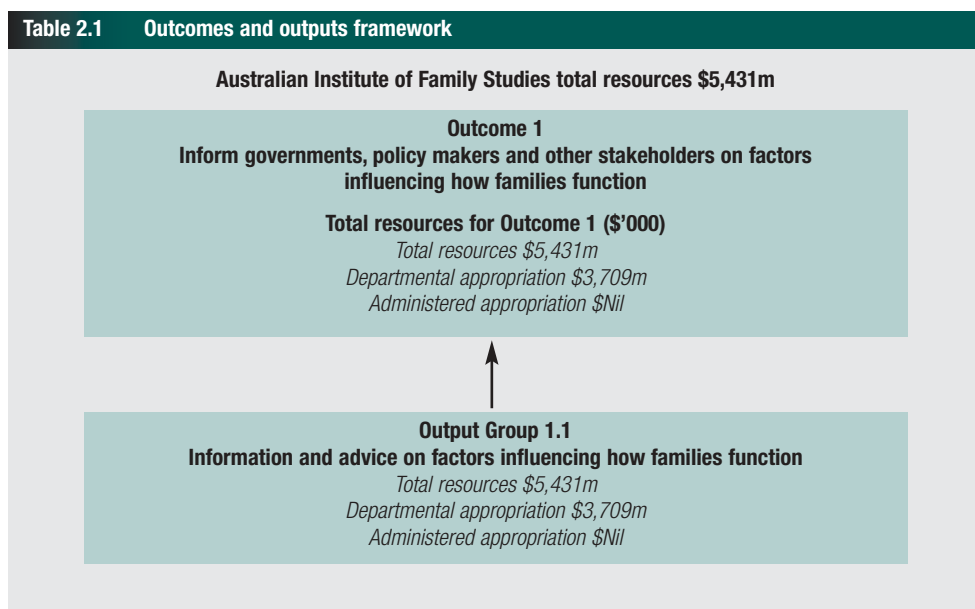
Within its outcomes and outputs framework, the Institute has the following outcome: “Inform governments, policy makers and other stakeholders on factors influencing how families function”. The principal output of the Institute as developed in the Portfolio Budget Statements is: “Information and advice on factors influencing how families function”.

The Institute’s research project performance is listed in the Research Program Section of this report. Performance indicators require 95 per cent of contracted research projects to be completed within planned timelines, and this target has been achieved. Contracted research work consisted of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children, the

Stronger Families Learning Exchange project, the Fertility Decision-Making Project, and the ongoing work for the National Child Protection Clearinghouse.

One of the Institute’s other key performance indicators – to provide publications and other written material as required – has been achieved during the year. There are a number of sources in this report that provide information on publications produced, articles written, and electronic database information disseminated. These sources are mainly within the Information, Dissemination and Marketing Program, and cover Publishing, the Family Information Centre, and Information Development. For example, the Institute has produced three issues of *Family Matters* during 2001–2002 to meet one of its key performance indicators in this area. In the Marketing and Communications section, information is provided on the number of media requests during the year – another performance indicator for the Institute.

**Table 2.1 Outcomes and outputs framework**



## Board of Management 2001–2002

### **Professor Donald Chalmers**

LLB(Hons)(Lon), LLM(PNG)  
Faculty of Law  
University of Tasmania  
(Appointed July 1998;  
Reappointed July 2000)  
*Non-executive Director*  
*Attendance: 4 Board meetings*

### **Ms Dianne Gibson**

MA (Psych)  
National Director  
Relationships Australia  
Canberra  
(Appointed July 2000)  
*Non-executive Director*  
*Attendance: 4 Board meetings,*  
*2 Administration, Finance and Audit*  
*Sub-Committee meetings*

### **Professor Alan Hayes**

BA(Hons)(UNSW), PhD(Macquarie), FAPsS,  
FAM.PsyS  
Dean and Head of Division  
Australian Centre for Educational Studies  
Macquarie University  
(Appointed July 2000)  
*Non-executive Director*  
*Attendance: 4 Board meetings*

### **The Hon. Ann Henderson**

Presiding Member (from July 2000)  
(Appointed July 2000)  
(Died June 2002)  
*Non-executive Director*  
*Attendance: 1 Board meeting,*  
*1 Administration, Finance and Audit*  
*Sub-Committee meeting*

### **Ms Robyn McKay**

BA (Hons (ANU)), BEc(Hons)(ANU)  
Executive Director, Families  
Department of Family and Community  
Services, Canberra  
(Appointed July 2000)  
*Non-executive Director*  
*Attendance: 4 Board meetings*

### **Professor Frank Oberklaid OAM**

MBBS MD(Melb), FRACP, DCH  
Centre for Community Child Health  
University of Melbourne  
(Appointed July 2000)  
*Non-executive Director*  
*Attendance: 4 Board meetings*

### **Mr David I. Stanton**

BEcon(WA) MSc(Lon)  
Director  
(Appointed November 1999)  
*Executive Director*  
*Attendance: 4 Board meetings;*  
*2 Administration, Finance and Audit*  
*Sub-Committee meetings*

### **Ms Louise Staley**

BA, ASIA, GradDip.Fin(Melb), CFA  
Consultant Industrial Analyst  
(Appointed July 1998;  
Reappointed July 2000)  
*Non-executive Director*  
*Attendance: 3 Board meetings,*  
*2 Administration, Finance and Audit*  
*Sub-Committee meeting*

## Ethics Committee 2001–2002

**Dr Trevor Batrouney**

BA BEd(Melb), MEd PhD(Monash)  
 Adjunct Professor  
 RMIT University  
 (to January 2003)

**Ms Judith Foster**

BA(Swinburne)  
 (to January 2003)

**Reverend Dr Philip Hughes (Chair)**

MA MEd (Melb), D.Theol(SEAGST)  
 Christian Research Association  
 (to January 2003)

**Dr Richard Ingleby**

BA MA PhD(Oxford), LL.M.(Cambridge)  
 Latham Chambers  
 (to January 2003)

**Dr Duncan Ironmonger**

BCom MCom(Melb), PhD(Cambridge)  
 Department of Economics  
 University of Melbourne  
 (to November 2004)

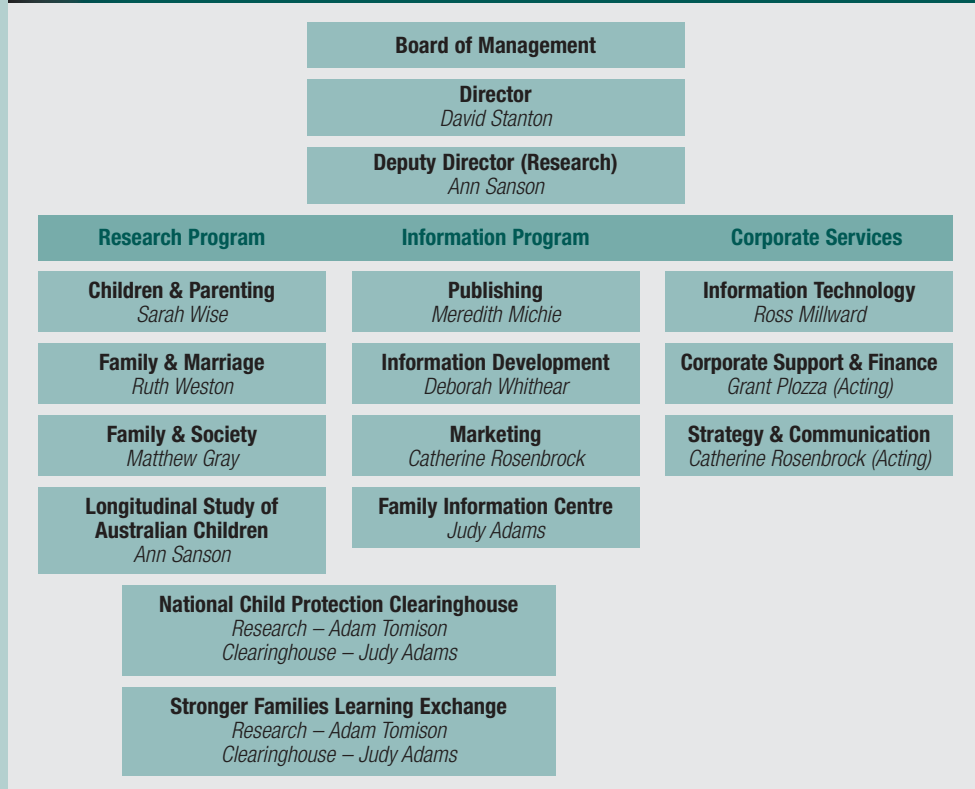
**Dr Frank Morgan**

BA MBBS MD GradDipMgmt(Melb)  
 Advocacy Branch  
 Department of Veterans' Affairs  
 (to January 2003)

**Dr Kerreen Reiger**

BA Hons(Melb), PhD(La Trobe)  
 Department of Sociology  
 La Trobe University  
 (to November 2004)

**Figure 2.1 Australian Institute of Family Studies organisational structure at 30 June 2002**



## Staff of the Institute 2001–2002

### *Executive*

#### *Director*

David Stanton  
BEcon(WA), MSc(London School of  
Economics and Political Science)

#### *Deputy Director (Research)*

Ann Sanson  
BA(UWA), PhD(LaTrobe)

### *Executive Support Unit*

Narda Sowter

Mary Grace Soriano  
BA GradDipIndRel(UP), MSc(AIT),  
GradDipSocWelfare(Monash)

### *Research Program*

Andrew Armstrong  
BA GradDipAppPsych(SUT)  
(commenced 13 May 2002)

Sandra Billard  
BSc (ANU), GradDipAppPsych (Monash),  
PhD(Melbourne)  
(commenced 28 February 2002)

Elizabeth Branigan  
BA(Hons)(LaTrobe), PhD(ANU)  
(commenced 25 May 2002)

Lisa da Silva (part-time)  
BA(Hons)(Melb)

Anna Ferro  
BSc (SUT)  
(commenced 17 June 2002)

Matthew Gray  
B.Ec(Hons)(Adelaide), PhD (ANU)

Kelly Hand  
BA(Hons)(LaTrobe)

Maya Haviland  
BApSc(Hons)(UWS)  
(commenced 24 June 2002)

Jody Hughes  
BA(ANU), Hons(Melb)

Christine Kilmartin  
BSocStud(Qld)  
(resigned 13 June 2002)

Katie Kovacs  
BA (Hons)(Melb)  
(commenced 30 July 2001)

Virginia Lewis (part-time)  
BA(Hons) MA(Melb), PhD(La Trobe)  
(resigned 28 September 2001)

Tania Lienert  
BA(Hons) (Deakin)  
(commenced 2 July 2001)

Elizabeth McDonnell (part-time)  
BA(Hons)(East Anglia), MA GradDip  
Creative Writing(Melb)  
(till 14 November 2001)

Christine Millward  
BA(Hons) MA(LaTrobe)

Penny Mitchell  
BSc(Hons)(UNSW), MPubHealth(Syd)  
(on extended leave)

Jane Muggleton (part-time)  
BA(Hons)(SUT)

Richard Munt  
BA(Ballarat)  
(commenced 17 June 2002)

Robyn Parker  
BA(Chisholm),  
GradDipAppliedPsych(Monash)

Lixia Qu  
BSc (Nanjing), MSc (Chinese Academy of  
Sciences), MURP (Hawaii)  
(resigned 11 January 2002)

Diana Smart  
BA(Hons) MA(Melb), Dip Ed(UNSW)

Bruce Smyth

BA(SUT)

Janet Stanley

DipSocWork BCom(Melb), MA

PhD(Monash)

Wendy Stone

BA(Hons)(ANU), MA(Melb)

Adam Tomison

BSc(Hons)(Deakin), PhD(Monash)

Colleen Turner

BA(ANU), GradDipEduc(Canberra),

GradDipPsych(Monash)

(commenced 30 June 2002)

Suzanne Vassallo

BAppSci (SUT), GradDipPsych,

MClinPsych(Deakin)

(commenced 3 December 2001)

Ruth Weston

BA(Hons) MA(Melb)

Katherine Wilson (part-time)

BA(Melb), GradDipSpecEducn(MelbCol-  
lege), BEd (LaTrobe), Psych(Hons)(Deakin)

(commenced 28 February 2002)

Sarah Wise

BA(Hons) MA(Melb)

### ***Information, Dissemination and Marketing Program***

Judy Adams

BA(Melb), GradDipLib(RMIT)

Anita Emmanouilidis (part-time)

CertAppSci(BoxHill)

Ellen Fish (part-time)

BA GradDipSocSurvey BSocWk(La Trobe)

Susan Fooks (part-time)

BA(Hons)(Colby), GradDipLib, Grad  
DipEdit/Pub(RMIT)

Sana Habib

BA (RMIT)

Carole Jean

BA(Hons) GradDipLib(Monash)

Robin Jeffs (part-time)

BA(Monash), GradDipLib(Ballarat),

GradDipChildren'sLit(Deakin)

Joan Kelleher (part-time)

BA(La Trobe), GradDipLib(MCAE),

GradDipEd(CIE)

Meredith Michie

BA(LaTrobe)

Belinda Snider

BA(Natal), GradDipLib(RMIT)

Deborah Whithear

BA(Syd), GradDipLib(NSW)

### ***Management, Administration and Financial Infrastructure Program***

Annette Dowie

Noelene Epstein

Pratima Francis (part-time)

BA(MSU), BA GradDipCrim(Melb)

Tracy Joyce (part-time)

BA(Hons)(Monash)

Christine McCarthy

BA(Hons)(Lancaster)

Karen McNair

DipBusAcc(Peninsula)

(retired 28 February 2002)

Ross Millward

BSc(Monash), DipEd(Melb)

Grant Plozza

BBus(RMIT), GradDipAcc(Gippsland)

Catherine Rosenbrock

BEc(Hons) (Monash), MPubPol(Melb)

Christine Stojanovski (part-time)

Melissa Veit

CertInf(Broadmeadows), AdvCertInf

DipInf(Kangan TAFE)

Feng Xi (part-time)

AdDipAcc(Adelaide TAFE), GradCertProf  
Acctng(SQU)