



Reimagining the Visitor Economy

Expert Panel Biographies

29 April 2021

Mr Martin Ferguson AM

Mr Ferguson served as Minister for Tourism and Minister for Resources and Energy from 2007 to 2013. Since leaving politics he has continued to advocate for Australia's tourism sector. Mr Ferguson has been Chair of Tourism Accommodation Australia (TAA) since 2015 and Chair of the Clare Valley Wine & Grape Association since 2019. In March 2020, Mr Ferguson was appointed as a part-time Expert Panel member on the Fair Work Commission for a 5-year term.

Ms Leanne Coddington

Ms Coddington is the Chief Executive Officer of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) – Queensland's tourism marketing, experience development and major events agency. Prior to being appointed CEO, she led the destination, experience development and industry engagement group, as well as the research and strategy function within the organisation. Ms Coddington has extensive experience in the industry, including senior executive roles across the hospitality sector, and is an adjunct professor at the Business School of the University of Queensland.

Ms Karyn Kent

Ms Kent is Chief Executive of StudyAdelaide, which promotes Adelaide as an international study destination and delivers programs to support international students in Adelaide. Previously, Ms Kent was the Regional Manager for South/South East Asia and Gulf countries at Tourism Australia. She also served various roles at the South Australian Commission in international marketing and is an Expert Member supporting the Australian Government's Council for International Education.

Ms Kate Lamont AM

Ms Lamont has over three decades of experience in the wine, food and tourism industries in Western Australia. She has grown her family's food and wine business to an integrated food and wine group with over 80 employees and operates restaurants in the Swan Valley, Margaret River, Perth City and Cottesloe. As one of Western Australia's most successful chefs, Ms Lamont has written several bestselling cooking books and she was previously Deputy Chairperson of Tourism Australia and also Chairperson of Tourism Western Australia.

Mr Juan Walker

Mr Walker, a Kuku Yalanji man, has 20 years' experience in the tourism and hospitality industry and owns and operates Walkabout Cultural Adventures in Far North Queensland which has been recognised as an outstanding Aboriginal business, being selected for Tourism Australia's Signature Experience collective 'Discover Aboriginal Experiences'. Mr Walker brings expertise across Indigenous business, cultural tourism and education, working with government, corporate and the community sectors to increase cross-cultural knowledge and understanding of First Nation peoples' connection to country.