

Dr Robert Edwards AO

Bob was an extraordinary person - a quiet but very astute achiever. His achievements were never about himself but for the recognition of Aboriginal people's profound understanding of land and sea, their skill with tools and weapons, their spirituality, languages and kinship systems and their art. Bob wanted Australians to appreciate they were encountering a complex, ancient, sophisticated and enduring culture. He did this through the establishment of the Aboriginal Arts Board, the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and the National Museum of Australia where he, Geoffrey Blainey and John Mulvaney ensured there was a separate gallery dedicated to Indigenous Australians. Bob and the late Cathy Santamaria worked quietly behind the scenes to establish most of the cultural institutions and programs over decades between 1970s to 2000. He was an amazing person and I thank him.

Dr Dawn Casey PSM FAHA

Dr Dawn Casey PSM FAHA , currently the chief operating officer for the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), has a solid background across multiple sectors.

Dr Casey is the former chairperson of the Indigenous Land Corporation and Indigenous Business Australia, and a former director of the Powerhouse Museum, Western Australian Museum and the National Museum of Australia.

In both 2012 and 2015, she was selected as one of The Australian Financial Review and Westpac 100 Women of Influence.