

OCA Member Profile



Jan Ferguson

Jan Ferguson has a passion for knowledge, innovation, and people in Remote Australia and has a flair for building large, effective partnerships across industry, government, academia and the community to understand and solve major challenges.

Jan was Managing Director Ninti One Limited, a national not-for-profit, for nine years. During that time, she delivered notable results for people, industries and communities in remote Australia. She has helped raise national awareness of the issues facing remote Australia (which generates significant export earnings), along with those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, engendering a new respect and richer dialogue about progress, participation and prosperity.

She is a skilled negotiator, a good listener and an experienced communicator of ideas. Her style is open, consultative, team-driven and relationship-focused. Just one of Jan's many talents is her ability to forge durable connections with people and organisations across a wide range of interests and helping them to work together for common goals and values.

Jan's achievements are plentiful but significant examples include: the negotiation and establishment of a world-recognised protocol for research and knowledge-sharing with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; and the creation of the Aboriginal Community Researchers (ACR) initiative which gives grassroots community members a voice in issues of policy and government service delivery that concern them.

Additionally, Jan previously worked for 15 years as a senior executive in the South Australian Government where her managerial expertise embraced such diverse fields as the arts, Aboriginal affairs, economics, education, desert environments, corporate governance, philanthropy and research management, precision pastoralism, rangelands issues and tourism. She also has extensive experience in developing relevant, insightful and compelling high-level reports.

She currently sits, and has sat, on a multitude of boards and committees throughout her varied career in fields as diverse the arts, education, state and local government and indigenous interests.



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