



NARELLE CLAY, AM

Narelle Clay is the Chief Executive Officer of Southern Youth and Family Services which provides services in the Illawarra, Shoalhaven and Southern Tablelands areas of NSW. Narelle has been active in the community sector and particularly in the area of homelessness for twenty four years and is well known in her field and more broadly for her activism and commitment to seeking social justice, and her endless energy to challenge but also work with Government to make changes. Narelle's Member to the Order of Australia Award (AM) is for "Distinguished service to the community through social justice advocacy and the provision of accommodation, housing and support for homeless people especially young people."

Narelle is a Commissioner for the National Youth Commission and served on the Independent National Inquiry Into Youth Homelessness in 2007 and 2008. She is currently a Member of the NSW Homelessness Alliance, Member of the NSW Minister of Community Services Advisory Committee related to the Wood Commission Reforms, and a Member of the Southern region's Area Managers Group. She has been a teacher for twenty three years with TAFE in various courses related to human services and a trainer specialising in areas of advocacy, community management, policy development and industrial relations. She is the President of the Australian Services Union (ASU) NSW and ACT Branches and Vice President of the Australian Services Union NSW, Social and Community Services Branch and a Member of various Commonwealth and State Government Advisory processes.

Narelle was the first Independent Chairperson of the Australian Federation of Homelessness Organisations (AFHO now HA) from 2002-2006, the previous Chairperson of the National Youth Coalition of Housing (NYCH) and the Youth Accommodation Association of NSW. She was a previous Member Committee Member or involved with a number of other advisory structures such as the NSW Award Negotiating Committee, the NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Homelessness, Association of Child Welfare Board (ACWA), the Youth Accommodation Association of NSW, the Commonwealth Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH), Prime Minister's Task Force, Data Research Advisory Committee (DRAC), Housing (MACHA), the National JPET Advisory Group, the FaHCSIA Youth Programs Critical Friends Committee and the Independent on the Catholic Ethics and Standards Committee, Southern NSW,

She is best known to most as people strong, passionate and committed.

Narelle Clay was voted in by the Homelessness Australia Board as the new Homelessness Australia Chairperson in Alice Springs, Thursday May 21, 2009.