

Dr Phil Lambert PSM



- Director, Phil Lambert Consulting Pty Ltd
- Adjunct Professor, University of Sydney
- Adjunct Professor, Nanjing Normal University
- Patron, Professional Teachers Council (NSW)

Former:

- General Manager, Australian Curriculum at the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA);
- Regional Director of Schools, Sydney; and
- National President, Australian College of Educators

Dr Phil Lambert is an internationally acclaimed education expert. He has extensive experience in education as an inspector; Regional Director (Sydney) and RTO CEO; and General Manager of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority where he led the development of Australia's first national curriculum and the National Assessment Program. He has led major reviews and reforms, presented a number of papers and keynotes at national and international conferences, had a number of articles and occasional papers published in journals, and authored three books, the most recent being, 'The Knowing and Caring Profession'. In 2023 he undertook a major review of Climate Change Education for UNESCO and has recently undertaken a review of Tasmania's Senior Secondary Curriculum for the Tasmanian Government.

Phil has received a number of honours and awards. In the 2012 Queen's Birthday Honours he was awarded the Public Service Medal for his outstanding contribution to education and leadership in programs aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls. In 2013 he was the recipient of the Australian College of Educators' prestigious award, the Sir Harold Wyndham Medal and in 2020 he was the recipient of the NSW Teachers Guild's Phyllis Evans Medal. He was recently appointed Patron of the Professional Teachers Council in Australia.

Phil is Adjunct Professor at the University of Sydney and also Adjunct Professor at Nanjing Normal University, China. He supports education reform efforts globally as expert advisor and researcher. He is a Curriculum Expert to the OECD Education 2030 initiative and has been engaged by education ministries in several countries including Japan, The Netherlands, Qatar, Kazakhstan, the UAE, Brazil, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Lithuania and Vietnam to guide and support their respective reforms. He is a Director on the board of Brazil's Instituto Reuna, a member of Singapore's Marshall Cavendish Education Advisory Board and International Ambassador for the United Kingdom's National College.

Phil contributes to the community in various ways. He is Chair (previously CEO) of Together For Humanity, the Attorney General's appointee on the NSW Children's Court Advisory Committee, the Minister of Education's independent appointee on the Non-Government School Not-For-Profit statutory advisory committee and was recently appointed as a member of the NSW Parliament's Education Advisory Group. He is also a Director on the Board of Rafiki Mwema which supports children and young people in Kenya traumatised through abuse, neglect or life on the street. He served from 2013-2023 as the inaugural Deputy Chair of Our Watch, the national foundation to prevent violence against women and their children; served for 13 years as a Director on the board of the Australian Children's Television Foundation and four years as a Director on the Australian Financial Literacy Board. He also Chaired the National Expert Group on Respectful Relationships Education and also ASIC's National Expert Group on Young People and Money. He served as National President of the Australian College of Educators from 2019 to 2023.

He was recently featured in an exhibition of 50 'Positively Remarkable People from Sydney'.

QUALIFICATIONS

Academic

• Doctor of Education	University of Sydney	2001
• Master of Education (Leadership)	University of Sydney	1996
• Bachelor of Education (Leadership)	Adelaide University	1984
• Cert. in Aboriginal Cultural Knowledge	TAFE NSW	2009

Conferrals

• Patron	Professional Teachers Council (NSW)	2024
• Adjunct Professor	University of Sydney	2013
• Adjunct Professor	Nanjing Normal University	2011
• Fellow of Australian Council of Educational Leaders	Australian Council of Educational Leaders	2009
• Fellow of Australian College of Educators	Australian College of Educators	2008

EMPLOYMENT

Director	Phil Lambert Consulting Pty Ltd	Feb 2016-
Key Responsibilities:	<i>Expert advice to government (multiple countries) and global agencies (UNESCO, OECD, World Bank) and schooling systems regarding policy reform (curriculum; pedagogy; assessment; external and internal evaluation); Research and reviews for government agencies in education; publications and presentations for Ministries of Education on curriculum, pedagogy, assessment and reporting; leadership and school evaluation.</i>	
General Manager, Australian Curriculum	Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority	2013-Jan 2016
Key Responsibilities:	<i>National curriculum and assessment reform, policy and development; Led development of Australia's first national curriculum, released in 2015; Development of the national assessment of all Australian students including the National Assessment Program during the development of the online tailored testing initiative. Advice to national government on curriculum, assessment and reporting on school performance data. High level advice to Federal Parliament on school performance and governance.</i>	

Regional Director, Sydney	NSW Department of Education & Communities	2004-2013
Key Responsibilities:	<i>Statewide policy and oversight of 230 Sydney Region government primary, secondary schools and preschools including school evaluation (external and internal measures); monitoring of school leadership development and accountability, and teachers' professional learning programs. Leadership of School Directors and oversight of a large consultancy team and corporate services</i>	
Sydney CEO RTO		2010-2013
Key Responsibilities:	<i>VET compliance and establishment of trade training centres across Sydney region, achieving no non-compliance reports across all centres.</i>	
Assistant Director-General	NSW Department of Education & Training	2003-2004
Key Responsibilities:	<i>Statewide policy in Early Childhood, Primary Education and Rural Education; Oversight of Rural NSW government primary and secondary schools and preschools (including mobile preschools to isolated communities) – two-thirds of the state; oversight of school evaluation of all rural schools; distance education; Indigenous Education including leading the first major Review of Indigenous Education; principals' and teachers' professional learning programs.</i>	
Executive Director	NSW Department of Education & Training	2001-2003
Key Responsibilities:	<i>Statewide policy in Early Childhood, Primary Education and Rural Education; leading and managing major preschool and class size reduction initiative for the early years. Member of National Rural Education Committee and Chair of Metro Sydney Human Services Group.</i>	
Inspector	Office of the NSW Board of Studies	1994-2000
Key Responsibilities:	<i>Statewide Inspection of schools and systems; curriculum policy for early childhood, primary education and secondary education and HSC courses; expert advice to State government on early childhood education, primary education, secondary education and special education.</i>	
Primary Principal	NSW Department of Education	1990-1993
	<i>Principal at Marrickville Public School.</i>	

PUBLICATIONS

Books (and Chapters)

2024	<i>Curriculum Flexibility and Autonomy Report</i> (co-author)	OECD
2023	<i>Impact of Climate Change Education on Learning Outcomes</i> (source report for UNESCO's Greening Curriculum Guidance)	UNESCO
2022	<i>The Knowing and Caring Profession</i>	Austin Macauley
2016	<i>Assessment into Practice; chapter: Assessment into Practice Inside and Outside Australia</i>	PETAA publications
1996	<i>The Importance of Play</i> (co-author Professor Sue Dockett)	NSW Board of Studies
1991	<i>Press On: The use of Calculators in Schools</i>	Longman Cheshire

Doctoral Thesis

2001	<i>Education Reform: Policy Steering In and Out of Schools</i>	University of Sydney
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Articles and Publications

2025	<i>The Elephant in the Classroom</i>	The Educator (Australia)
2025	<i>Transformation Leadership: Safe Harbours or Turbulent Seas?</i>	eSchoolNews and eCampus News (USA)
2023/4	<i>Global Leadership</i> (regular quarterly feature)	Thriving Matters (for Global Leaders)
2019	<i>Reclaiming, Reprioritising, Reassessing and Recasting Soft Skills</i>	Centre for Strategic Education
2018	<i>Curriculum Reform – Policy to Practice</i>	Australian College of Educators
2018	<i>Reforming Curriculum, Teaching, Assessment and Reporting: The Fourfold Challenge for Education</i>	Centre for Strategic Education
2017	<i>The Future of Work and Skills</i>	Australian College of Educators
2017	<i>Hard Focus on Soft Skills</i> (Future Frontiers Series)	NSW Department of Education
2016	<i>Generational Change in Australian School Leadership: Collision Path or Smooth Baton Change?</i>	Journal of Educational Administration

Vodcasts

2025	<i>Transformational Leadership</i> (Spotify)	BTS Spark (USA)
2025	<i>Transition to, in and from School</i> (Spotify)	National College (UK)
2024	<i>Masterclass: Student, Schools and Eco-Anxiety</i>	Cool.Com (Australia)