

Professor Fiona Stanley AC - A brief biography

Professor Fiona Stanley heads two major organisations headquartered in Perth, Western Australia.

She is the founding Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, a multi disciplinary research facility that investigates the causes and prevention of major childhood diseases and disabilities.

She is also the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, a national organisation of researchers, practitioners and policy makers that has been established to improve the health and wellbeing of Australia's young people.

Born in Sydney in 1946, Fiona Stanley moved to Perth with her family in 1956. She graduated in medicine at the University of Western Australia in 1970. Her clinical experience in hospitals and at the Aboriginal Clinic in East Perth sparked an interest in epidemiology and public health. She studied the areas extensively in the UK and USA over the next six years before returning to Perth to establish research programs at the University of Western Australia and the Health Department of WA.

In 1990 Professor Stanley was one of the key driving forces behind the establishment of the Institute for Child Health Research as an innovative, multi-disciplinary centre of research excellence, and was appointed the founding director. The Institute has forged an international reputation and is widely recognised for its comprehensive approach in bringing together clinical, laboratory and population health scientists to tackle the major issues in child health.

Professor Stanley's research work involves conducting and supervising studies in maternal and child health. Her main interests include:

- strategies to enhance health and wellbeing in populations
- the causes and prevention of birth defects and major neurological disorders particularly the cerebral palsies;



- the causes and lifelong consequences of low birth weight and other pre- and postnatal problems;
- patterns of maternal and child health in Aboriginal and Caucasian populations.

She has written three books, 25 book chapters, 40 major reports or monographs and had more than 200 papers published in refereed journals.

It is Professor Stanley's research interests that have formed the basis of her advocacy for Australia's children. In 2002, she was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the new Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. Her professional focus stems from an alarming deterioration in key health indicators for children. Her aim is to secure a national commitment to an agenda to significantly improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

She was awarded the Companion for Australia in 1996 and is a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

Professor Stanley is married and has two daughters.