

# ANOTHER TIME STREET!

## REPORT LAUNCH - PROGRAM

Thursday 14 September 2017

8.15am to 10.30am

Perth Arena, Reveley Room

700 Wellington St, Perth

#AFLIndigenous  
@BankwestCurtin

## THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS OF INDIGENOUS PARTICIPATION IN AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

BCEC RESEARCH REPORT NO. 5/17



# ABOUT THE CENTRE

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is an independent economic and social research organisation located within the Curtin Business School at Curtin University. The Centre was established in 2012 through the generous support from Bankwest (a division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia), with a core mission to examine the key economic and social policy issues that contribute to the sustainability of Western Australia and the nation, and the wellbeing of households both in WA and nationally.

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is the first research organisation of its kind in Western Australia, and draws great strength and credibility from its partnership with Bankwest, Curtin University and the Western Australian government.

The Centre brings a unique philosophy to research on the major economic issues facing the state. By bringing together experts from the research, policy and business communities at all stages of the process – from framing and conceptualising research questions, through the conduct of research, to the communication and implementation of research findings – we ensure that our research is relevant, fit for purpose, and makes a genuine difference to the lives of Australians, both in WA and nationally.

The Centre is able to capitalise on Curtin University's reputation for excellence in economic modelling, forecasting, public policy research, trade and industrial economics and spatial sciences. Centre researchers have specific expertise in economic forecasting, quantitative modelling, micro-data analysis and economic and social policy evaluation. The Centre also derives great value from its close association with experts from the corporate, business, public and not-for-profit sectors.



Cover image: Dinni Kunothe Kemarre, *Alparra Sports Weekend*, acrylic on linen, 120 x 90 cm. Courtesy the artist and Mossenson Galleries.  
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# PROGRAM

8.30am	<b>Welcome by MC Narelda Jacobs</b> Journalist, Network Ten
8.35am	<b>Welcome to Country</b> <b>Associate Professor Simon Forrest</b> Elder-in-Residence, Curtin University
8.45am	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <b>Craig Spencer</b> Head of Community Engagement, Bankwest
8.55am	<b>Report Launch</b> <b>Associate Professor Michael Dockery</b> Principal Research Fellow, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre <b>Dr Sean Gorman</b> Senior Research Fellow School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, Curtin University
9.15am	<b>Guest Speakers</b> <b>Ms Kirby Bentley</b> Vice-Captain, Fremantle Dockers Women's Team <b>Mr Chance Bateman</b> Premiership player, Hawthorn Football Club Employment Mentor, Wirrpanda Foundation <b>Mr Duncan Ord OAM</b> Director General Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
9.40am	<b>Morning tea</b>
9.55am	<b>Panel Discussion and Q&amp;A</b> <b>Associate Professor Michael Dockery</b> Principal Research Fellow, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre <b>Dr Sean Gorman</b> Senior Research Fellow School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, Curtin University <b>Ms Kirby Bentley</b> Vice-Captain, Fremantle Dockers Women's Team <b>Mr Chance Bateman</b> Premiership player, Hawthorn Football Club Employment Mentor, Wirrpanda Foundation <b>Mr Duncan Ord OAM</b> Director General Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
10.25am	<b>Vote of Thanks</b> <b>Mr Timothy Marney</b> Mental Health Commissioner WA Mental Health Commission
10.30am	Event concludes

# WELCOME FROM ALAN DUNCAN



It is my pleasure to welcome you to the launch of Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre's fifth *Feature* series report, *After the Siren: The community benefits of Indigenous participation in Australian Rules Football*.

Australian Rules Football (AFL) is celebrated as our national game, and its success draws much from the contributions of Indigenous players and communities, all the way from grass-roots football in remote communities through to the many Indigenous champions that adorn the sport's rich history.

*After the Siren* aims to build on that narrative of Indigenous peoples' participation in football at a grass-roots level, and the associated individual and community level outcomes. It is based on analyses of data from the 2014-2015 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey, supplemented by discussions with a number of stakeholders in West Australian football and relevant government agencies.

The findings in this report reveal the numerous benefits that participation in sport, and AFL in particular, bring to Indigenous Australians. Direct health benefits are apparent in both children and adults involved in AFL, with better mental and physical health outcomes compared to those who are not involved in sport.

Of significance is both the high rates of young Indigenous men participating in AFL – reaching up to 65% in remote areas, and the positive impact this has on mental health, even after controlling for an extensive range of factors.

What is also clear from the report findings is that AFL is an inclusive sport that offers wide accessibility irrespective of socio-economic background. While children living in disadvantaged backgrounds were less likely to participate in other organised sport, this was less apparent for AFL.

The findings delivered in this report support the case for widening Indigenous participation in AFL through the promotion of grass-roots football, particularly in remote Western Australia and through the newly evolving women's league.

I'd like to sincerely thank our esteemed panellists and guest presenters for their contributions to this morning's discussion, and our distinguished guests for their attendance.

Today's event brings together Indigenous leaders and the sporting community to share their perspectives on the report findings, and to generate and inform discussions on the benefits of Indigenous participation in football.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Duncan', written over a light blue grid background.

**Professor Alan Duncan**

Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre  
Curtin Business School, Curtin University





## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SIMON FORREST

### Elder-in-Residence, Curtin University

Simon was born and raised in Wadjuk country (Perth). He has connections to country at Goomalling (Balardong), Swan Valley (Wajuk), Mt Magnet (Badimaya) and Leonora (Wongutha). He trained as a primary school teacher and worked in schools in Aboriginal communities and rural towns. He has also worked in the public sector in senior managerial positions in education and curriculum and Indigenous affairs policy and implementation.

Simon is WA's longest serving Aboriginal academic having been teaching undergraduate and postgraduate students since 1983 at Edith Cowan University, The University of Western Australia, Curtin University and Michigan State University. He was the Inaugural Head of KurongKurl Katijin School of Indigenous Australian Studies at ECU. His services are widely sought particularly as a presenter in the areas of Aboriginal Education, History and Politics, Cultural Awareness and Competency and Cultural Consultancy. In 2005, Simon was awarded National Scholar of the Year at the National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee Awards.



## **NARELDA JACOBS**

### **Journalist, Network Ten**

Narelda has been a journalist at Network Ten for over 16 years and is the presenter of Perth's Ten Eyewitness News at 5.

Narelda loves her home town of Perth, with the world's warmest people and best lifestyle. Her on air profile has given Narelda the opportunity to get involved in countless community events.

Narelda's a patron of the Motor Neurone Disease Association WA. She's an Ambassador for the David Wirrpanda Foundation, Breast Cancer Care WA & the Disability Services Commission. In 2011 she was 1 of 13 WA women who trekked Kokoda to raise money for Breast Cancer Care WA.

She's MC'd high profile events in Perth, sharing the stage with the Prime Ministers, international business leaders and humanitarian advocates. Narelda's engaging personality and professionalism make her an ideal choice as MC for corporate events.



## **CRAIG SPENCER**

### **Head of Community Engagement, Bankwest**

Craig is currently the Head of Community Engagement for Bankwest, and leads the Bankwest Community Engagement programs that span volunteering, community sponsorship and strategic partnerships such as the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre. Craig is also the Executive Manager of the Bankwest Foundation.

Craig is Chairman of Volunteering WA, the peak body for volunteering in Western Australia, a board member of the WA Youth Justice Board, and also a community representative on the Bindoon Primary School Board. He is a fellow of Leadership WA, a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors since 2006 and a graduate member of the Governance Institute of Australia.

Craig has a long term interest in community service, being an emergency services volunteer for over 17 years with both the NSW State Emergency Service and now with the WA Volunteer Bushfire Service. Craig led rescue teams and was formally recognised for his involvement in the 1989 Newcastle earthquake, 1994 Sydney bushfires and 1997 Thredbo landslide, as well as numerous bushfires.

Craig is father to two wonderful young men aged 15 and 19 and spends a considerable amount of time tending to an orchard on his property at Bindoon as a great counterbalance to his day job.



## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MICHAEL DOCKERY

**Principal Research Fellow  
Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre**

Mike is Principal Research Fellow with the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre.

He also manages the Population Mobility and Labour Markets project for the CRC for Remote Economic Participation and the Data and Analysis program for the National Centre for Student Equity in Higher Education. Mike was previously a Research Fellow and later Director of the Centre for Labour Market Research, undertaking contracted research for a wide range of government departments and policy agencies.

Mike's research interests and activities traverse a range of issues in applied labour economics; including education and training, Indigenous socio-economic outcomes, subjective wellbeing and housing. With BCEC Mike concentrates on researching labour market outcomes and the links between the labour market and the wellbeing of workers' and their families. Much of his research involves the application of longitudinal (panel) data, including data from the Household, Income and Labour dynamics in Australia Survey (HILDA), the Longitudinal Surveys of Australian Youth, Longitudinal Studies of Australian Children and of Indigenous Children.

Mike is frequently called up to provide input into policy formulation by bodies such as the Productivity Commission, the Fair Pay Commission, and he has won numerous competitive grants with the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute and National Centre for Vocational Education Research. His current projects include extensions of his seminal work on the links between cultural identity and the wellbeing of Indigenous Australians and the impact of non-standard working hours on families. Mike is also on the editorial boards of the *Australian Journal of Labour Economics* and the *Journal of Happiness Studies*.





## DR SEAN GORMAN

**Senior Research Fellow  
School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts, Curtin University**

Sean is a Senior Research Fellow with the School of Media, Culture and Creative Arts at Curtin University.

Sean has worked in the field of Indigenous History for 20 years. After completing his honours applying Russian Formalist theory to the Murri guerilla poet Lionel Fogarty, he commenced a PhD in 2000.

He looked at racism in sport (AFL) using the Krakouer brothers story and in 2005, his PhD was published with Allen & Unwin as *Brotherboys*. In 2009 the book was adapted into a play and had a national tour commencing in 2011.

In August of 2011, *Legends the AFL Indigenous team of the Century* was published and launched by Michael Long and Professor Mick Dodson.

Sean is currently the Lead Chief Investigator on an ARC Linkage to review the AFL's Vilification Laws and was the sole academic contributor to the AFL's Players' Association Best Practice Guidelines for Indigenous Players.



## KIRBY BENTLEY

### Vice-Captain Fremantle Dockers Women's Team

Kirby is a Noongar woman from Mount Barker in Western Australia and is the Vice-Captain of the Fremantle Dockers Women's Team. She is regarded as one of the best female players to ever play AFL.

Kirby made a strong start to her sporting career as a national level netballer at the age of 14, playing for the Perth Orioles and the Hunter Jaegers in Sydney.

She found her passion for footy when her mum's sister tragically passed away through domestic violence in 2009. Kirby saw the deep connection her mother and aunt had, and turned to football to rebuild her family ties. Being the youngest girl in her family, Kirby was buoyed on to play the sport by her sister who was already an avid footballer. After playing just one game, Kirby was hooked.

Footy was a big part of Kirby's life, growing up in a community of grassroots footy competitions. She remembers watching her uncles and male cousins play the game, a reminder to her that at the time Australian Rules Football was very much a male-dominated sport.

Named in honor of Kirby, the Kirby Bentley Cup was established in 2014. The 9-a-side round robin tournament for Aboriginal girls aged 13 to 17 provides an opportunity for the girls to put their football skills on display while also connecting with key community role models. The 2016 Kirby Bentley Cup featured 18 teams and more than 250 participants.

Leading the way on and off the field, Kirby encourages Indigenous girls and women to be the best they can be, promoting Indigenous wellbeing and success through Australian Rules Football. The game is a platform to bring people together and creates a sense of belonging while promoting health and fitness.



## CHANCE BATEMAN

**Premiership player, Hawthorn Football Club  
Employment Mentor, Wirrpanda Foundation**

Chance is a Noongar man of Ballardong country and is an Employment Mentor at the Wirrpanda Foundation, an organisation which aims to improve the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

A former AFL player, Chance took the field for Hawthorn Football Club in the 2008 AFL Premiership and for the Boxhill Hawks in the 2001 VFL Premiership. He is Hawthorn's first Indigenous player to reach 100 games, first Aboriginal life member, and the Club's longest-serving WA recruit.

Chance is passionate about serving the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People through his work at the Wirrpanda Foundation. His role involves identifying employment opportunities for the Foundation's program participants and working with the participants to get them job ready.

Chance enjoys being able to impart knowledge and share his experiences as a way of supporting and building the confidence of Indigenous jobseekers. Seeing his mentees grow both personally and professionally, to a point where they feel confident and motivated to embark on their own long-term career pathway, is what he finds the most rewarding.



## **DUNCAN ORD OAM**

### **Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries**

Duncan Ord is the Director General of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. Duncan has worked in Government in areas of culture and arts, education, training, planning and Aboriginal Affairs.

Previous roles in private industry include Dean of the WA Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) and General Manager of the WA Theatre Company and Black Swan Theatre.

Duncan has been Chair of the arts, sports and recreation industry training council, member of boards and committees of the Australia Council and a consultant to local Government on arts infrastructure projects.

In 2013 Duncan was the recipient of an Order of Australia Medal and is also a past winner of the Churchill Fellowship.



## **TIMOTHY MARNEY**

### **Mental Health Commissioner WA, Mental Health Commission**

Tim was appointed as the West Australian Mental Health Commissioner in February 2014.

Following the amalgamation of the Drug and Alcohol office and the Mental Health Commission on 1 July 2015, Tim is responsible for planning and purchasing the State's mental health services, as well as planning, purchasing and delivery of alcohol and other drug services.

Tim has been instrumental in the development of the Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan 2015-2025, which maps out the optimal mix of contemporary and high quality services for Western Australians over the next 10 years.

A graduate of Murdoch University, Tim has more than 20 years of experience in economics and finance with the State and Federal Governments. He joined the Western Australian Department of Treasury in 1993, where he held the position of Under Treasurer of Western Australia from 2005 to 2014.

Since 2008, Tim has served on the board of beyondblue, a national depression and anxiety initiative, and has been Deputy Chair of the board since 2010.



# ATTENDEES

**Mr Mervyn (Nick) Abraham**

Board member  
Nyoongar Wellbeing and Sport

**Mr Tim Allan**

Corporate Partner Manager  
United Way WA

**Mr Jason Allen**

Director  
Allenkey

**Mr Mark Anderson**

Player Development Manager  
Fremantle Dockers Football Club

**Miss Lucinda Ardagh**

Foundation Manager  
Fremantle Dockers Football Club

**Mr Jason Barrow**

Cultural Awareness Officer  
Edith Cowan University

**Mr Chance Bateman**

Employment Mentor  
Wirrpanda Foundation

**Mr Ryan Benson**

Account Manager  
PSC McKenna Hampton

**Ms Kirby Bentley**

Vice-Captain  
Fremantle Dockers Women's Team

**Miss Kate Bobridge**

Grants Manager  
Wirrpanda Foundation

**Mr Tom Bottrell**

Chief Executive Officer  
Stephen Michael Foundation

**Mr John Bouffler**

Executive Director  
Community Employers WA

**Dr Susan Bradley Smith**

Senior Lecturer, Creative Writing  
Curtin University

**Miss Melissa Byrne**

Corporate Events Coordinator  
Curtin University

**Miss Kimberley Campbell**

Community Programs Manager  
Bankwest

**Mrs Jahna Cedar**

Executive Officer  
Gumala Aboriginal Corporation

**Mr Jeremy Chetty**

Co-Founder  
Student Edge

**Mr David Collard**

Consultant  
David Collard & Associates

**Ms Jeanmarie Collins**

Corporate Business Coordinator  
Perth NRM

**Mrs Naomi Cordell**

Administration Officer  
Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

**Mr Drew Cordell**

Business Development Manager

**Mr Braden Cotterill**

Indigenous Recruitment Advisor  
Rio Tinto

**Mr Richard Crane**

Acting Manager, Health Promotion  
South Metropolitan Health Service

**Mrs Lisa Cunningham**

Chief Executive Officer  
Wirrpanda Foundation

**Ms Hayley Davis**

Training Coordinator  
Curtin University

**Professor Carolyn Dickie**

Deputy Pro Vice-Chancellor,  
Curtin Business School  
Curtin University

**Associate Professor  
Mike Dockery**

Principal Research Fellow  
Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

**Mr Mark Donovan**

Administration Assistant  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet

**Hon. Diane Evers MLC**

Member for South West Region  
Greens WA

**Mr Dave Faulkner**

Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder  
Education Changemakers

**Miss Beth Ferialdi**

Planner  
Department of Communities

**Ms Lisa Fieldhouse**

Aboriginal Liaison Officer  
Future Footprints AISWA

**Associate Professor  
Simon Forrest**

Elder-in-Residence  
Curtin University

**Miss Jana Gernhoefer**

Partnerships Account Manager  
Fremantle Dockers Football Club

**Ms Debra Goostrey**

Partner  
ATEA Consulting

**Dr Sean Gorman**

Senior Research Fellow, School of Media,  
Culture and Creative Arts  
Curtin University

**Mr Glenn Hall**

Director Venue Operations  
Perth Theatre Trust

**Mr Mitch Hardy**

Manager Regional Services  
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Principal Policy Officer  
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**Mr Scott Hood**

Senior Relationship Manager  
Bankwest

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**Ms Narelda Jacobs**

Journalist  
Network Ten

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Principal Procurement Advisor  
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**Mr Ben Lewis**

Teacher  
Wesley College

**Mr John Mallard**

Project Officer  
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**Mr Timothy Marney**

Mental Health Commissioner WA  
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Principal Policy Officer  
Commissioner for Children  
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**Mr Frank Mitchell**

Director  
Wilco Electrical

**Ms Caroline Moore**

Team Leader  
Activ

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Lecturer  
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Director  
Nyoongar Wellbeing and Sport

**Mr Wayne Needoba**

Owner  
Learning Process Management

**Mr Toan Nguyen**

PhD Scholar  
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Member  
Developmental Disability Council  
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**Mr John Penny**

Member  
Developmental Disability Council  
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**Mr Christopher Phelps**

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**Ms Yasmine Phillips**

Media Consultant  
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**Ms Kelly Pohatu**

Events and Communications Officer  
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**Mr Mike Prime**

Director  
Prime Capacity

**Ms Pearl Proud**

Clinical Lead  
headspace

**Mr Russell Quinn**

Senior Manager, Media & Communications  
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**Miss Lindal Rohde**

Operations Manager  
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**Mr David Russell**

Head of Sport & Recreation  
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Research Fellow  
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Senior Lecturer  
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Sustainable Communities Manager  
Perth NRM

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Director of Industry Development  
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Sport and Recreation (WA) DLGSC

**Mr Craig Spencer**

Head of Community Engagement  
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Director Project Management  
Main Roads WA

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Synnott Mulholland Management Services

**Mr Tom Tapping**

Director of Content  
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Strategic Projects Officer  
Department Local Government,  
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**Mr Neil Thomson**

Partner  
ATEA Consulting

**Mr Cameron Thorn**

Manager, Leadership  
Careers, Employment & Leadership  
Curtin University

**Mr Chris Twomey**

Leader Research and Policy Development  
WACOSS

**Professor Marian Tye**

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Curtin Centre for Sport  
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**Mr Joel Waddell**

Human Resources Advisor  
Rio Tinto

**Mr Mitchell Walley**

Student  
Department of Health

**Mr Russell Wilson**

Director/Catalyst  
Ecocentric Energy

**Mr Ben Wood**

Membership and Marketing Services  
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**Mr Russell Yeo**

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