

**UNDER EMBARGO UNTIL 12.01AM MAY 7, 2025**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ANROWS Strengthens Executive Leadership to Drive Evidence into Action on Gendered Violence**

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) has announced four new executive appointments, strengthening its leadership at a time of growing urgency for evidence-based action to end violence against women and children.

The appointments expand ANROWS's capacity across research, evaluation, communications and organisational strategy, bolstering its ability to translate evidence into lasting change in policy, practice and systems.

The new Executive Directors are:

- **Dr Kristin Diemer**, a leading international expert in family violence research and data systems, as Director of Research;
- **Lucy Macmillan**, a senior evaluation and impact specialist with two decades' experience across domestic violence, justice, and public health sectors, as Director of Evaluation and Impact;
- **Anandini Mayuran**, a strategy and organisational development leader with expertise spanning philanthropy, public policy and governance, as Director of Strategy and Organisational Development.
- **Dr Meredith Nash**, an internationally recognised gender equity leader and former National Lead for Respect@Work at KPMG Australia, who also led the transformative 2022 Nash Review of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Australian Antarctic Program, as Director of Communications and Engagement;

ANROWS CEO Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine said the leadership team brings the expertise needed to drive faster application of evidence across sectors.

"There is a huge amount of evidence about solutions to end gendered violence already. The challenge is ensuring that existing evidence informs action, even as we continue to generate new research and fill gaps in what we know. This new leadership team strengthens ANROWS' ability to deliver research that doesn't just sit on shelves, but shifts systems, services and community responses," Dr Boyd-Caine said.

The appointments come ahead of the [ANROWS Conference 2025](#), which will focus on centring the voices and experiences of children and young people impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence.

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AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH  
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*to Reduce Violence against Women & their Children*

Dr Kristin Diemer said strengthening and expanding the national evidence base would be critical.

"Australia leads internationally in gendered violence research, but persistent gaps remain. Building stronger data systems, partnerships and evidence translation will be essential to improve safety outcomes for women and children," Dr Diemer said.

Dr Diemer will continue her academic role with the University of Melbourne, part-time, reflecting the continued importance of rigorous and quality research. Any conflicts between these roles will be managed appropriately.

Dr Meredith Nash said shifting public narratives was essential to drive systemic reform.

"Research alone doesn't create change – it's how evidence is communicated that shapes action. My focus is ensuring ANROWS research reaches policymakers, services and the broader public in ways that accelerate cultural and system-wide shifts," Dr Nash said.

Lucy Macmillan said impact must be measured through real-world change.

"Impact doesn't happen by accident – it's the result of intentional, strategic action. I look forward to working across ANROWS and with our partners to ensure our research drives real system change and improves safety for all women and children," Ms Macmillan said.

Anandini Mayuran said strengthening organisational capability would be vital to supporting systemic change.

"Achieving lasting change requires strategic leadership and strong, resilient organisations. I am excited to contribute to ANROWS's mission by helping build the structures needed to turn evidence into sustained impact," Ms Mayuran said.

CEO Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine said, "This team reflects outstanding expertise in gender-based violence and the strategic leadership we need to achieve impact through evidence-informed action in policy, service delivery and community understanding."

The appointments follow recent renewals to the ANROWS Board and align with the strategic directions of the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-2032.

## ENDS

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**Headshots and Director Bios** available [here](#)

For interview requests, the ANROWS Executive Directors can speak on the following areas of expertise:

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- **Dr Meredith Nash - Communications and Engagement:** Gender equity, workplace sexual harassment prevention and response, psychosocial risk, DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) leadership, and the role of communications in systemic change.
- **Dr Kristin Diemer - Research:** Intimate partner and family violence, research and data systems, technology-facilitated abuse, program evaluation, evidence gaps, and strategies to reduce violence by people who use it.
- **Lucy Macmillan - Evaluation and Impact:** Evidence-based approaches, frontline evaluation, impact measurement in the violence prevention sector, progress indicators under the National Plan, and insights into 'what works'.
- **Anandini Mayuran - Strategy and Organisational Development:** Strategic leadership in not-for-profits, investing in organisational capability, innovation in research-driven contexts, and global perspectives on philanthropic and social impact.

Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine, CEO of ANROWS, is also available for interviews on broader issues relating to gendered violence, policy reform, and national research strategy – on request.

## About ANROWS

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety ([ANROWS](#)) is a not-for-profit independent national research organisation. ANROWS is an initiative of Australia's National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022. ANROWS was established by the Commonwealth and all state and territory governments of Australia to produce, disseminate and assist in applying evidence for policy and practice addressing violence against women and their children. ANROWS is the only such research organisation in Australia.