



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE

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# Promoting Asian-Australian Participation in Public Life

**Wednesday 5th November 2014**

9:00am – 5:00pm

University House, The University of Melbourne

# Asian-Australian Public Policy Project, Asia Institute

## Background

The Asian-Australian Public Policy Project is a new initiative of the Asia Institute. The Project's goal is to explore Australia's growing and diversifying Asian-Australian communities, seeking better to understand the experience, status, contribution, and recognition of these communities in Australia, and their role in the development of Australia's relations with diverse Asian countries.

A wide range of activities will be delivered, including forums, conferences and publications that aim to build the research capacity and profile of the Project and position it to influence government.

The Project has received the generous financial support of Mr Jason Yeap OAM, as well as the encouragement of prominent leaders in the community.

## Inaugural Roundtable, 2013

The inaugural event was a roundtable held on November 28, 2013 to discuss Asian-Australians' representation, contribution and recognition in the public sphere in Australia.

Invited speakers included three leading academics from the United States of America, Canada and New Zealand: Professor Don T. Nakanishi (the University of California, Los Angeles), Professor Henry Yu (the University of British Columbia) and Professor Manying Ip (the University of Auckland). Australian speakers included: Professor Kwong Lee Dow AO, (former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne and current Chair of the Australian Multicultural Foundation), and Dr Mukesh Haikerwal AO, (former President of the Australian Medical Association and current Chair of the World Medical Association).

## Promoting Asian-Australian Participation in Public Life Forum, 2014

This year the Asia Institute builds on the roundtable in a one-day forum to explore the experiences of Asian-Australians in politics and in the professions, trade and investment opportunities of the Asian Century and growing ties to the region.

The panel on the Victorian State Election, 2014 and the participation of established and emerging political leaders of Asian background will offer a rare opportunity for focused discussion about individual as well as group experiences of political participation. It also offers insight into policy and strategies that will encourage and support the greater involvement of Asian-Australians in national, state and local political and public life.

As the Australia in the Asian Century White Paper (2012) noted, the transformation of the Asian region into the economic powerhouse of the world offers Australia unique economic opportunities. There are also social and cultural benefits arising from the broadening and deepening people-to-people links between Australia and the region. Currently, there are some 2.4 million people in Australia who self-identify as having Asian ancestry, amounting to 11% of Australia's total population of 21.5 million. This forum explores the great potential of Asian-Australians to contribute to Australian public life and towards shaping public policy, and the future of the region.

# Welcome from the Dean, Faculty of Arts

Welcome to the Promoting Asian-Australian Participation in Public Life Forum. On behalf of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne, I sincerely thank you for your involvement and keen interest in this historic event and the broader Asian-Australian Public Policy Research Project.

The forum is the first to gather great Asian-Australian names in federal and state politics and in the professions on the topic of promoting equitable participation and inclusion of Australians of Asian background in Australia's public life. It provides a platform to continue adding and expanding knowledge and insight into the lives of Australians among us of Asian background and to challenge the barriers to equitable participation for all Australians in public life.

I wish to welcome all esteemed speakers at the forum to the University of Melbourne, which has a proud history of research and advocacy for a more inclusive and multicultural Australia. I know that we will be enriched by your contribution.

**Professor Mark Considine**

Dean, Faculty of Arts



# Welcome from the Asia Institute

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Promoting Asian-Australian Participation in Public Life Forum, proudly hosted by the Asia Institute. The forum is one outcome of the Asian-Australian Public Policy Project, part of the Population, Migration and Multicultural Studies Network located in the Faculty of Arts. I acknowledge the support of Mr Jason Yeap OAM, Member of the Board of *Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne*, who has been a strong advocate of the Project and its mission to better understand the particular dynamics of Asian-Australian participation in public life.

The Asia Institute is the primary centre for studies in Asian and Middle Eastern languages, cultures and societies at the University of Melbourne. As the importance of Asia and the Middle East to Australia continues to grow, we strive to provide leadership in the study of the rich intellectual, political, cultural and religious traditions of these vital regions. Our teaching programs include Arabic, Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese languages as well as Asian and Islamic Studies. In addition new frontiers of our research and engagement are the growing and diversifying immigrant and local-born Australians of Asian heritage and their roles in Australia's relations with Asia.

Welcome to the forum and I trust you will find Promoting Asian-Australian Participation in Public Life to be an enriching and rewarding academic and community gathering.

**Professor Pookong Kee**

Director, Asia Institute





# Promoting Asian-Australian Participation in Public Life

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**9:15am–9:30am**

Welcome and Opening

Welcome and Opening, 9:30am

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**9:30am–10:15am**

Senator the Hon. Penny Wong and Senator the Hon. Lisa Singh are unable to attend the forum, which coincides with the state memorial service in Sydney for former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam. Their speeches have been recorded for the forum.

Chair:

**Associate Professor Nana Oishi**, Deputy Director, Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne

**Australia's Asian Century: Trade and Investment Opportunities, (filmed speech)**

**Senator the Hon. Penny Wong**

Senator for South Australia, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, Shadow Minister for Trade and Investment, and former Minister for Finance, Australian Labor Party

**Asian-Australians in Public Life, (filmed speech)**

**Senator the Hon. Lisa Singh**

Senator for Tasmania, Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Australian Labor Party

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**10:15am–10:45am**

Morning Tea Break

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**10:45am–12:30pm**

**Asian-Australians in the Victorian State Election, 2014**

Chairs:

**Professor Don Nakanishi**, Professor/Director Emeritus, Centre for Asian American Studies, the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

**Dr Jen Tsen Kwok**, Honorary Research Fellow, the University of Queensland and Associate, Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne

Panellists:

**Ms Alex Bhathal**, Candidate for Northern Metropolitan Region, the Australian Greens Party

**Dr Stanley Chiang**, Candidate for Western Metropolitan Region, the Australian Labor Party

**Mr Hong Lim MP**, Current State Member for Clayton district for the Australian Labor Party and candidate for the new Clarinda district

**Ms Gladys Liu**, Candidate for the Northern Metropolitan Region, the Liberal Party of Australia

**Mr Jude Perera MP**, Current State Member for Cranbourne district for the Australian Labor Party and candidate for Cranbourne

**Ms Harriet Shing**, Candidate for the Legislative Council, Eastern Region Victoria, the Australian Labor Party

**Cr Jennifer Yang**, Candidate for Mount Waverley, the Australian Labor Party

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**12:30pm–1:30pm**

Lunch Break

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## 1:30pm–3:15pm

### Fostering Asian Australian Leadership and Participation in Public Life in the Asian Century

Chair:

**Mr Jason Yeap OAM**, Chairman, Mering Corporation Pty Ltd and Chairman, Herbaceous Holdings Ltd, China; Patron, Multicultural Arts Victoria; Member of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute Board; The Australia Day Ambassador and former Chairman of the National Gallery of Victoria Foundation

**Dr John Yu AC**, Australian of the Year 1996; former CEO, Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children, Westmead; Chancellor, University of New South Wales; Foundation Chair NSW Commission for Children and Young People, and Vice-Chair, Art Gallery of NSW Board

**Ms Cam Nguyen**, Founding President and current Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Australian Vietnamese Women's Association (AVWA)

**Mr Chin Tan**, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC)

**Mr Reynah Tang**, President of the Asian Australian Lawyers Association; immediate Past President of the Law Institute of Victoria, and Partner at Johnson Winter & Slattery

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## 3:15pm–3:30pm

Afternoon Tea Break

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## 3:30pm–4:00pm

### Concluding Address: Inclusiveness in Multicultural Australia

Chair:

**Dr Sara Wills**, Associate Dean (Advancement), Faculty of Arts, the University of Melbourne

**Professor Andrew Markus**, Pratt Foundation Chair of Jewish Civilisation, Monash University

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## 4:00pm–4:30pm

### The Way Forward: Vision and Program for Promoting Asian Australian Participation in Public Life

Facilitator:

**Professor Pookong Kee**, Director, Asia Institute, the University of Melbourne

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## 4:30pm–5:00pm

Reception and refreshments

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# Speaker profiles



*Ms Alexandra Kaur Bhathal*  
*Candidate for Northern Metropolitan Region, the Australian Greens Party*

**Alexandra Bhathal** is a Greens activist and social worker. She is a four-time Greens candidate for the federal seat of Batman (2001, 2004, 2010 and 2013), where the primary vote is now the second highest of any federal seat in Australia (after the seat of Melbourne). In this year's upcoming state election in Victoria, Alex is running for the state seat of Northern Metropolitan in the second, potentially winnable position.

Alex served as Australian Greens International Secretary in 2011-12 and is the inaugural Convenor of the Global Greens Women's Network. In 2011, she was employed as the Australian Greens National Climate Campaigner. She was elected as co-convenor of the Victorian Greens with Dinesh Mathew for the 2012-13 term.

A qualified social worker, Alex has worked with young people and their families in Melbourne's north for 25 years and now manages refugee youth programs for a large NGO. Alex has conducted research on the social impacts of climate change. She also worked for the ground-breaking People's Inquiry into Detention, co-authored the Victoria University Study on International Student Safety, and is active in Victoria's Indian community.



*Dr Stanley Chiang*  
*Candidate for the Western Metropolitan Region, the Australian Labor Party*

**Stanley Chiang** was born in Shanghai, China. In 1980 he came to Australia as a student and obtained degrees in biological sciences (B.Sc., Hon.) and medicine (M.B.B.S.) at Flinders University, South Australia. In 1992 he moved to Melbourne. He obtained further post-graduate qualifications (FRACGP and FAMAC) and runs two medical clinics with a partner. He also teaches.

In March 2002, Stanley was the first person of Mainland Chinese background in Australia to be elected as a local government councilor in Darebin City Council.

Stanley is actively involved in the promotion of multiculturalism. He was the Chairman of the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council, executive member of the Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria, advisor to the Federation of Chinese Association in Victoria. He is currently the Honorary President of the North Eastern Melbourne Chinese Association, and President of the Chinese Community Council of Australia (Victorian Chapter). He also served as Commissioner for the Victorian Multicultural Commission for 10 years.



*Professor Pookong Kee*  
*Director, Asia Institute*

**Pookong Kee** is Director of the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne. He was previously Professor of the Graduate School of Asia Pacific Studies and sometime Director of the Ritsumeikan Centre for Asia Pacific Studies at the Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan. This was preceded by an appointment as Director of the Chinese Heritage Centre in Singapore.

Before his return to Asia in 1999, he had worked in academe and the public sector in Australia, including a stint with the Senior Executive Service of the Australian Public Service. Born and raised in Malaysia, he has a PhD degree in Psychology from the Australian National University, a First Class Honours Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree in Psychology and a BA with majors in Economics, Politics and Psychology from the University of Adelaide. His recent teaching and research interests include the causes, processes and consequences of the global movement of people, Asian Diasporas, and Asian-Pacific affairs generally.

He currently serves on the International Editorial Board of the Journal of International Migration and Integration, Museums Board of Victoria, Board of Asialink and the Japan Foundation for the Promotion of State of the Art in Medicine and Health Care.



*Dr Jen Tsen Kwok*

**Jen Tsen Kwok** is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Queensland and an Associate of the Asia Institute at the University of Melbourne. He was awarded a PhD in Sociology from the University of Queensland in 2013 and his research was commended with a Deans Award in 2014. Jen has been an invited speaker to a number of public events including a panel on the Australia in the Asian Century (2012) White Paper at the OzAsia Festival in Adelaide, 21-22 September 2013 and the 'Asian Australian Public Policy' roundtable in Melbourne, 28 November 2013. He is an industry-based public policy researcher with methodological competencies across a range of social science disciplines. He works in policy and research for the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU).



*Mr Hong Lim MP*

*Current State Member for Clayton District for the Australian Labor Party and candidate for the new Clarinda district*

**Hong Lim** came to Australia in 1970 as a Colombo Plan scholarship student. He has been extensively involved in ethnic community affairs since the arrival of Indo-Chinese refugees in Australia in 1976, leading to his appointment as a Commissioner of the Ethnic Affairs Commission from 1985 to 1993.

In 1977, he commenced a 16-year career in the Victorian Public Service working in the human resources development and labour market

program areas in various government departments. In 1993, he resigned from the Victorian Government and worked as a Youth Employment Counsellor with the Cambodian Association until his election to the Victorian Parliament in March 1996.

Hong is the first and only Cambodian-Chinese to be elected to a Parliament anywhere in the English-speaking world. He was elected a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Clayton, Victoria, in March 1996 and has held the position since. He has been the Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Opposition Leader on Asia Business Relations since March 2013.



*Ms Gladys Liu*

*Candidate for the Northern Metropolitan Region, the Liberal Party for Australia*

**Gladys Liu** immigrated to Australia in 1985 to study Speech Pathology at La Trobe University. After graduation, Gladys went on to work in the not-for-profit and education sectors before establishing her own speech pathology clinic. Most recently Gladys worked for the Premier of Victoria in multicultural affairs.

Having called Australia home for the last thirty years, Gladys is passionate about serving and giving back to her community. She is an active community member and takes a particular interest in helping those of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Gladys is currently an AFL Multicultural Ambassador and an Asian Cup Multicultural Ambassador.

Gladys is committed to the Northern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne. She will fight for cheaper public transport and more community services, as well as encouraging local job creation. Gladys will also ensure the multicultural communities of the Northern Metropolitan Region are represented and their interests and concerns are heard.



*Professor Andrew Markus*

**Andrew Markus** is the Pratt Foundation Research Professor of Jewish Civilisation at Monash University and is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. Andrew has published extensively on Australian immigration and race relations. His books include *Australian Race Relations, 1788 – 1993* (1994), *The Struggle for Aboriginal Rights*, co-authored with Bain Attwood (1999), *Building a New Community: Immigration and the Victorian Economy* (2001), and *Australia's Immigration Revolution* (2009), co-authored with Peter MacDonald and James Jupp. Andrew heads the Scanlon Foundation social cohesion research program.



*Professor Don T. Nakanishi*

**Don T. Nakanishi** is a prolific writer and influential teacher and scholar. Born and raised in the multiethnic, working class community of East Los Angeles, California, he received his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Yale University in 1971, and his Ph.D. in political science, from Harvard University in 1978.

Don became Director and Professor Emeritus of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Asian American Studies Center, the largest and most renowned research and teaching institute in Asian American Studies in the United States. Prior to his retirement from UCLA in 2009, he provided leadership for the national development of Asian

American Studies and Race and Ethnic Relations scholarship for four decades.

He has written over 100 books, articles, and reports on the political participation of Asian Pacific Americans and other ethnic and racial groups in American politics; educational research on issues of access and representation; and the international political dimensions of minority experiences.

President Bill Clinton appointed him to the Civil Liberties Public Education Board of Directors, which administered the nation-wide public education and research program that was established under the 1988 Civil Liberties Act that provided a national apology and reparations for the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were incarcerated in concentration camps during World War II.

Don is a member of the board of directors for national and local organizations, and has received numerous scholarly and leadership awards.



*Ms Cam Nguyen*

**Cam Nguyen** founded the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association (AVWA) in 1983. She was President for many years while working for the Adult Migrant Education Services (AMES) as a Teacher and Principal. She has been AVWA Chief Executive Officer since 2004. AVWA aims to assist the settlement and integration of refugees and migrants of Vietnamese and other backgrounds in Victoria and promote their health and wellbeing. It also supports Vietnamese women to collaborate and to lead. AVWA's eighty-three staff and thirty-five volunteers deliver a wide range of services to both genders and all ages across all Metropolitan regions. Cam has been instrumental in

promoting greater harmony between Vietnamese and other Australians. In recent times, she has spoken about women in leadership roles. In 2003, she was inducted into the Victorian Women's Honour Roll and received the Centenary Medal in the same year. She is a member of the Brimbank Social Justice Coalition Implementation Group and the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee. In the past, she has served on the Victoria 150th Anniversary Committee, Ethnic Communities Council (Victoria), Adult, Community and Further Education (ACFE) Board, and many other organisations.



*Associate Professor Nana Oishi  
Deputy Director, Asia Institute, the  
University of Melbourne*

**Nana Oishi**, who was previously a Professor of Sociology at Sophia University in Tokyo, joined the University of Melbourne in Japanese Studies in 2013.

Nana started her research career at the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations specialised agency, in Geneva in 1993 after finishing her MA (Sociology) at University of Toronto. After conducting policy research on international migration at the ILO, she was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and completed her PhD at Harvard University, followed by postdoctoral research at the University of California. She returned to the ILO as a Policy Analyst and worked for the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization.

Nana served on various national and international advisory boards, including Japan's Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Tokyo Metropolitan Government. She was Japan's Representative to the Future

Leaders Forum (2007) and the G8 Experts Roundtable on Diversity and Integration (2008). She is currently a board member of the Japan Association for Migration Policy Studies and also a member of the International Steering Committee of International Metropolis.

Nana is the recipient of several awards including the Recognition Award from the International Federation of University Women and the Government of Canada Award.



*Mr Jude Perera MP  
Current State Member for Cranbourne  
district for the Australian Labor Party and  
candidate for Cranbourne*

**Jude Perera** is the first Sri Lankan and the first Indian subcontinent born Australian to be elected to any federal or state Lower House of any Australian parliament; and the only Sri Lankan born to be elected three times in any jurisdiction in the world outside of Sri Lanka.

He has a Bachelor of Science and has extensive experience working in information technology. He has also worked as a market researcher, and since 1988 as a software developer on a permanent and contract basis. Jude has worked in Sri Lanka, New Zealand and in Australia

During Jude's Parliamentary tenure, he has served on the following committees: Parliamentary Investigatory Committees, Scrutineer of Acts and Regulations Committee, Family and Community Development Committee as the Chair and currently in the Road Safety Committee.

Jude has also co-chaired the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of India, and has held the position of Secretary of the Parliamentary Friends of the United States of America.





*Ms Harriet Shing*

*Candidate for the Legislative Council, Eastern Region Victoria, the Australian Labor Party*

**Harriet Shing** is a lawyer with the Australian Services Union – Victorian and Tasmanian Authorities and Services Branch, and has previously worked as a senior policy and ministerial adviser, lawyer and industrial relations specialist in the Victorian private and public sectors. She is an experienced negotiator and advocate and has worked extensively in industrial relations, employment and discrimination law, and dispute resolution at State and Federal levels. Harriet is particularly committed to identifying and enhancing opportunities for Gippsland that will enable communities throughout the entire region to thrive.



*Senator the Hon. Lisa Singh*

**Lisa Singh** was born in Hobart in 1972. She graduated from the University of Tasmania with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree and holds a Master of International Relations from Macquarie University.

Lisa was elected to the Australian Senate as a Tasmanian Labor Senator in August 2010 and began her term on 1 July 2011. In October 2013, Bill Shorten, the Leader of the Opposition, appointed Lisa as Shadow Parliamentary Secretary to the Shadow Attorney-General. She was promoted to Shadow Parliamentary Secretary for the

Environment, Climate Change and Water on 24 June 2014.

In 2008, while serving as a member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly, the Tasmanian Premier appointed her Minister for Corrections and Consumer Protection and Minister for Workplace Relations, as well as Minister assisting the Premier on Climate Change, portfolios in which she achieved significant and lasting reforms.

Before and after her term in the Tasmanian Parliament as a Labor Member for Denison between 2006 and 2010, Lisa served the community through her work in the union movement, the non-government sector and the public service. She was Hobart City Council's 'Hobart Citizen of the Year' in 2004 and in 2010 founded the Asbestos Free Tasmania Foundation, a support organisation for asbestos disease sufferers in Tasmania.



*Mr Chin Tan*

**Chin Tan** is currently the Chairperson of the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC). The Commission is an independent statutory authority with the responsibility to support and empower communities, foster unity and harmony, celebrate and promote the benefits of Victoria's diversity. He also serves as the co-chair of the Police and Community Multicultural Advisory Committee, a member of the Ministerial Advisory Council for a Multilingual and Multicultural Victoria and has extensive involvement in politics and in the community. In addition to his role with the VMC, he is a recognised business leader of the community, having served in various capacities in the Chamber of Commerce and Professional and Business Associations and various other organisations.



*Mr Reynah Tang*

**Reynah Tang** became the first President of the Law Institute of Victoria from an Asian Australian background in 2013 and he took the opportunity to establish the Asian Australian Lawyers Association in order to promote cultural diversity in the law for Asian Australian practitioners. In June 2014, the Association held an event with the Race Discrimination Commissioner, Dr Tim Soutphommasane, focusing on the issue of unconscious bias and the bamboo ceiling. More recently, the Association has established a mentoring program to provide support for Asian Australian lawyers. As a tax lawyer, Reynah has been the lead tax adviser on many significant mergers, acquisitions and infrastructure projects, and has represented clients in the manufacturing, infrastructure, energy and resource sectors through complex tax issues surrounding multi-billion dollar deals and projects such as Foster's demerger and the Victorian Desalination Plant. In addition to his practice as a partner at Johnson Winter & Slatery, Reynah is a director of the Law Council of Australia, the Law Institute of Victoria, the Wellbeing and the Law Foundation, and a member of the Council of Legal Education and the Board of Taxation Advisory Panel.



*Dr Sara Wills*

**Sara Wills** is the Associate Dean (Advancement) in the Faculty of Arts, Coordinator of the Executive Master of Arts degree in the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences, and a Senior Lecturer in the School of Historical and Philosophical Studies. Born in the UK, Sara undertook her PhD in nineteenth-century British cultural history at the University of Melbourne, and is the author of *The Greening of William Morris* (2006). For the last decade, her teaching and research has focused on migration studies, with a focus on the post-Second World War period in Australia. She has published widely on aspects of British migration to Australia, memory and migration, the temporary accommodation of migrants and contemporary refugee issues. A founding member of the Melbourne Humanities Foundation Board and an Honorary Research Associate at Museum Victoria, Sara has also worked closely with museums and other arts, cultural and community organisations.



*Senator the Hon. Penny Wong*

**Penny Wong** was born in Malaysia and moved to Australia when she was eight.

Before entering Parliament, Penny Wong was a barrister and solicitor in Adelaide and worked as an adviser to the Carr Government in New South Wales.

She was elected as a Labor Senator for South Australia in November 2001 and began her term in July 2002.

In Opposition, Penny held the portfolios of Employment and Workforce Participation, Corporate Governance and Responsibility and Public Administration and Accountability.

In December 2007 Penny was appointed to the Federal Cabinet in the Rudd Labor Government as the Minister for Climate Change and Water, and in March 2010 the Prime Minister added the Energy Efficiency portfolio to her responsibilities.

In September 2010 Penny was appointed as Minister for Finance and Deregulation in the Gillard Labor Government.

After the 2013 election Penny was appointed as Opposition Leader in the Senate and Shadow Minister for Trade and Investment.



*Jennifer Yang*

*Candidate for Mount Waverley, the Australian Labor Party*

**Jennifer Yang** is the Labor candidate for Mount Waverley electorate. She was first elected to Manningham City Council in January 2011 and served as Mayor of Manningham in 2012 and 2013. Jennifer has been a passionate advocate for a diverse range of community issues, particularly in the areas of services for senior citizens, young families, migrants and special needs groups.

Her other areas of focus include sustainable urban developments, transport routes, road safety, environmental sustainability, as well as promoting a fair and transparent process in decisions and actions.

She is an IT Engineer with a Master of Applied Information Technology, Master of Science (Earth Science – Geophysics), Bachelor of Science (Earth Science) and Bachelor of Business (Accounting).

She is Manningham Council's representative for the Victorian Local Governance Association and the multicultural committee member for the Municipal Association of Victoria. She is also an executive committee member for the Australian Local Government Women's Association, Victorian Branch; and honorary advisor for a number of community organisations.



*Mr Jason Yeap*

**Jason Yeap** OAM is a Malaysian-born property developer, lawyer and philanthropist. He holds a double degree in science and law from Monash University. Jason began his career as a practising lawyer with Stammers Lawyers where he later became a senior partner. In 1997, he founded ASX-Listed property and investment company Phileo Australia Limited.

In 2004, Jason launched Mering Corporation, a property investment and development company that focuses on CBD and greenfield land developments around Melbourne. In 2005 he also launched Herbaceutic Holdings Pty Ltd, a skincare company based in Shanghai. He remains chairman of Mering Corporation and chairman of Herbaceutic Holdings Pty Ltd.

In 2014, Jason was appointed an inaugural member of the Trade and Investment Policy Advisory Council (TIPAC), supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), established to facilitate an ongoing dialogue between the Government and the business community on the challenges and opportunities involved in advancing Australia's trade and investment interests. Influential in Melbourne's business and art scenes, he was announced a Patron of Multicultural Arts Victoria in 2014. Jason was a trustee of the National Gallery of Victoria (Chairman of NGV Foundation, 2012), member of the Board of Directors of the Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Board Member of *Believe – the Campaign for the University of Melbourne*; Ambassador for the Australia Day Ambassadors' Program. In 2010, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the arts and to the community.



*Dr John Yu*

**John Yu** AC was the Chancellor of the University of New South Wales from January 2000 to July, 2005. He is Chair of the Centre for Asian Art and Archeology at Sydney University, Chair of VisAsia in the Art Gallery of New South Wales and formerly Chair of the George Institute of Global Health. He was also Deputy President of the Board of Trustees of the Art Gallery of NSW and previously on the Board of the Powerhouse Museum, National Board of Musica Viva, the Penrith Regional Gallery and St. Vincent's Hospital in Sydney.

He is a paediatrician and was Chief Executive of the Children's Hospital at Camperdown and then at Westmead. He is a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians and Royal Australian College of Medical Administrators and has honorary doctorates from the University of Western Sydney, University of Sydney and University of NSW.

He was awarded the Sachs Medal of the Health Services Association of Australia and the Weary Dunlop Medal of Asialink. John was a member of the Australia China Council of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 1997-2006 and the Chair from 1999. He was the inaugural Chair of the Specialist Advisory Council of the NSW Commission for Children and Young People and a member of the NSW Public Education Council.

He serves on the National Board of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, HCF Council and the HCF Research Foundation. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1989, a Companion of the Order in 2001, received the Centenary Medal and was named 1996 Australian of the Year.



# Asia Institute

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