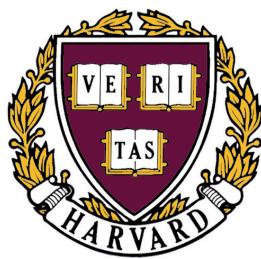


# HARVARD CLUB OF AUSTRALIA



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Two of Australia's most promising public service leaders win Wolfensohn scholarships to Harvard**

The Harvard Club of Australia (HCA) is delighted to announce the winners of the Sir James Wolfensohn Public Service Scholarships for 2025 to attend executive education at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government:

- Fiona Hunt, Deputy Director General Aboriginal Engagement and Community Policy, Department of the Premier and Cabinet WA
- Scott Johnston, Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services, NSW Department of Planning, Housing Infrastructure

The 2025 Wolfensohn scholarship winners have chosen courses in modern leadership and leadership in emerging technology.

With the support of the former chairman of the World Bank and Harvard alumni, the late Sir James Wolfensohn, HCA established the Wolfensohn Scholarship in 2012 to promote the development and delivery of good public policy. The scholarship is now funded solely through the fund raising efforts of the HCA. Each of the candidates was chosen based on their potential to contribute to the benefit of Australian society through the design and implementation of public policy.

The two recipients were chosen from a wide field of candidates, all nominated by a Commonwealth, State or Territory department or agency head. A shortlist of candidates was interviewed by a panel of Harvard alumni comprising the honourable Gabrielle Upton, Elizabeth Carr AM, Dr Ian Watt AC, and scholarship Chair, Mat Franklin.

HCA is especially grateful to the Secretaries and agency heads from the winners' home departments and agencies for personally nominating and supporting their candidates. This cohort of winners attending Harvard would not be possible without an engaged group of public service leaders.

By funding executive education at the world's leading school of public policy, the Wolfensohn Scholarship supports the design and delivery of good public policy in Australia. It also rewards outstanding individuals for their achievements in Government and motivates recipients in their successful public sector careers.

*Further information:*

Mat Franklin

Chair, Wolfensohn Scholarship

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## Fiona Hunt



Fiona is the Deputy Director General at the Department of Premier and Cabinet, overseeing the Community Policy and Aboriginal Engagement Division. Fiona has experience across a range of policy areas, including social and community policy, aboriginal affairs, early childhood and corporate governance

In her current role, Fiona and her teams advise on some of the State's most pressing social policy priorities including early childhood reform, strengthening the State's response to Family and Domestic violence, coordination and stewardship of WA's Closing the Gap agenda and leading the State's approach to Native Title agreement making.

Fiona's previous roles have spanned the Department's of Education, Justice, Corrective Services and Health where she has overseen system-wide governance and integrity reforms and has been responsible for delivering organisational governance, professional standards and assurance and risk services.

Fiona is a graduate of the University of Western Australia and holds a first-class honours in Health Sciences.

## Scott Johnston



Scott Johnston is a highly experienced senior leader with a career spanning the Australian, New South Wales, and United Kingdom public sectors.

An internationally recognised statistician in economic analysis, he spent 14 years at the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the UK Office of National Statistics, supporting OECD and European Union decision-making.

Scott joined the NSW Public Service Commission in June 2014, serving as Director of Workforce Information, Assistant Commissioner of Performance and Analytics, and Acting Public Service Commissioner. He led initiatives to foster diversity, build future workforce capabilities, and drive sector reform.

In April 2020, he became Deputy Secretary Revenue NSW, Chief Commissioner of State Revenue, and Commissioner of Fines Administration.

Over five years, he improved the customer experience for 3.5 million annual clients, strengthened collaboration with stakeholders, and expanded hardship and diversion programs for vulnerable customers—critical during and after the pandemic. His focus on technology, efficiency, and flexibility positioned Revenue NSW as a key gateway to NSW Government Services.

In July 2025, Scott became Deputy Secretary, Corporate Services at the NSW Department of Planning, Housing & Infrastructure (DPHI), leading enabling services that support affordable housing, optimised land use, and vibrant communities.

Passionate about shaping the future workforce, Scott champions evidence-based decision-making, innovation, diversity, inclusion, and digital capability development.