Business



Kathy Karabatsas is the Group Chief Financial Officer at the Myer Group, appointed in March 2025 following Myer's combination with Apparel Brands. She leads the financial operations of the group, overseeing commercial planning, treasury, procurement, and compliance.
She brings deep executive experience in retail and consumer goods, having held senior roles at David Jones and Lion Dairy & Drinks. Her leadership has consistently driven operational efficiency and financial performance in complex, multi-brand environments.
Beyond her corporate career, Kathy is committed to community and cultural initiatives, serving on the board of The Hellenic Initiative Australia and supporting national relief efforts. Her appointment reflects Myer's broader vision for growth, innovation, and purpose-led leadership.



Marika Calfas is the Chief Executive Officer of NSW Ports - managing Port Botany, Port Kembla, and intermodal terminals at Cooks River and Enfield. With over 20 years in the port sector, she is dedicated to improving supply chain efficiency and highlighting the economic importance of ports.
She has been appointed by the NSW Government to the board of Infrastructure NSW and is a Director of TT Club, an international insurer for the transport and logistics industry. She serves as Vice President (South-East Asia and Oceania) of the International Association of Ports and Harbors, Deputy Chair of Ports Australia and Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, and sits on several other boards.
Marika holds degrees in Environmental Engineering, Engineering Management, and Environmental Law. Marika is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Fellow of Engineers Australia, and a member of Chief Executive Women.



Dr Elena Limnios is a Director of Limnios Property Group and Co-Founder of Limnios Projects, building on the provision of more than 55 years of real estate and development services in Perth.
She is an experienced Chair and Non-Executive Director, currently serving as Chair of Perth NRM, President of the Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HACCI) in WA, and Chair of the HACCI National Federation. She also sits on the Advisory Board of the University of Western Australia's Centre for Environmental Economics (CEEP) and on the board of Prompt Engineering.
With over two decades in governance and strategy, Dr Limnios specialises in cooperative and mutual business models that deliver social and environmental impact. She holds a PhD in sustainability and organisational resilience metrics, an MBA, and a Master of Engineering.
Her academic contributions include a decade as Assistant Professor at the UWA Business School, where she led international research in governance, strategy, and business models for mutual organisations.



Helen Mastrocostas is the Financial Strategist at Aniko Group. She is a highly accomplished investment banking professional with over 16 years of experience at top-tier global institutions. She held senior roles as Executive Director in commodity derivatives structuring and sales at Goldman Sachs and later at ANZ, where she advised major corporate and institutional clients across global markets on sophisticated risk management and investment strategies.
Now based in Queensland, Helen has brought her extensive financial expertise and leadership to the property sector, working alongside her brother at Aniko Group - one of the state's largest private developer-builder. She plays a pivotal role in delivering some of Queensland's most ambitious projects, including The Landmark, a $3 billion mixed-use development set to transform Mermaid Beach on the Gold Coast.



Violet Roumeliotis AM is the Chief Executive Officer, Settlement Services Australia.
Violet has spent close to 40 years leading for-purpose organisations, providing human services that promote equal opportunity and change the lives of individuals and families experiencing inequality.
As the CEO of Settlement Services International (SSI), a national not-for-profit organisation providing dedicated human and social services to a diverse Australia, Violet has taken SSI from a Sydney-based organisation with 68 staff to a 1100-plus workforce that supports more than 53,000 people nationally each year across a range of human services.
Violet is a previous National Telstra Businesswoman of the Year and one of the AFR 100 Women of Influence. Her non-executive roles include the Australian Council of Social Services Board, a member of the NSW Women's Advisory Council, the NSW Ageing and Disability Commission Advisory Board, NSW Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Council, Australia Post Stakeholder Council, and the Deputy Chair of Metropolis International Migration Network.

Politics & Law



Erin Feros is a Former Queensland Managing Partner and National Board Member at Allens. She is one of Queensland's most respected legal professionals, with over 30 years at Allens, a leading Australian law firm. She served as Managing Partner of the Brisbane office, was a member on the national Board, and led the firm's Mining Sector.
Erin played a key role in major mergers, acquisitions, and privatisations in the resources and energy sectors, collaborating with government and regulators to expand Allens' international presence.
Beyond law, Erin has held influential roles in corporate and cultural sectors, including as director of Queensland Rail and Queensland Theatre Company. She was also a Non-Executive Director and State Chapter Chair of Chief Executive Women (CEW), where she continues to advocate for gender equality in leadership. Known for her SWAN leadership style - Smart, Work hard, Ambitious, Nice.
Erin is a prominent mentor and champion of diversity and inclusion in business.



Fiona Douskou is an elected councillor on Bayside Council, where she brings over two decades of local experience and a strong connection to the Greek-Australian community, particularly within Bayside.
A lifelong resident and small business owner, Fiona launched her first venture straight out of high school, inspired by her family's entrepreneurial legacy. Her firsthand understanding of the challenges faced by small businesses fuels her commitment to cutting red tape and strengthening local enterprise.
Professionally, Fiona works at Microsoft as a Professional Services Specialist and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Lead. She also serves as the NSW Cybersecurity Advisor within the AUKUS forum and is an active member of the Australian Women in Security Network. Fiona's dedication to community extends beyond her professional roles, she is a youth mentor and a committed volunteer with the Greek Orthodox Parish.
Her leadership includes serving as President of the Rotary Club, where she spearheaded initiatives such as fundraising for the Bayside Women's Shelter and advocating for safer public spaces for women.



The Honourable Justice Chrissa Loukas-Karlsson is a judge of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and a member of both the Executive Council of the Australian Judicial Officers Association and the Executive Council of the Australian Association of Women Judges.
Her Honour attended the University of Sydney and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts. As a solicitor, her Honour worked with the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Legal Aid Commission prior to being called to the New South Wales Bar in 1989. Her Honour was appointed a Barrister with the Public Defenders in 1995 and was appointed Senior Counsel (SC) in 2012.
From 2003 to 2006, her Honour was counsel before the UN International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague. Her Honour was elected Vice President of the New South Wales Bar Association in 2017 and was awarded the Woman Lawyer Achievement Award (NSW) in 2002, the Senior Barrister Award in 2013 (Australia) and Barrister of the Year in 2017 (NSW).



The Honourable Anthe Philippides is a Former Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland and has devoted nearly four decades to Queensland's legal profession, becoming an advocate for diversity and inclusion. She was the first woman of non-Anglo-Celtic background admitted as a barrister in Queensland (1984) and the first of Hellenic heritage to attain silk in Australia (1999).
Specialising in commercial and maritime law, Her Honour founded Queensland's first maritime law course and led the Maritime Law Association of Australia and New Zealand. Appointed to the Supreme Court in 2000 and the Court of Appeal in 2014, her Honour was the first woman of immigrant parents to serve on both courts in Australia and the first such appointment internationally of a woman of the Hellenic Diaspora.
Her Honour's leadership included roles in the Mental Health Court and Land Appeal Court. Internationally, her Honour is a Titular Member of the Comité Maritime International and served as Honorary Consul for Cyprus.
Passionate about the arts and First Nations engagement, Her Honour she continues mentoring students and promoting mental wellbeing through creative initiatives.



The Honourable Sophie Cotsis MP is the New South Wales Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Work Health and Safety, representing the electorate of Canterbury since 2016. A proud member of the Australian Labor Party, she previously served in the NSW Legislative Council from 2010 to 2016.
Born and raised in Canterbury, she attended local public schools and earned a Bachelor of Arts from Macquarie University and a Master of Legal Studies from UTS. Before entering politics, she worked at Sydney Airport and later in union advocacy roles, including with the NSW Labor Council and the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union. She is known for her strong commitment to workers' rights, multicultural communities, and public safety. Her ministerial responsibilities reflect her passion for fair workplaces and safe conditions for all. She continues to be a vocal advocate for inclusive policies, community engagement, and improving the lives of working families across New South Wales through progressive reform.



Adjunct Professor Zorbas AO has a strong record of national leadership in cancer control. She has chaired and held positions in leading cancer and health organisations; led health and medical research reviews for the Australian government; and represented Australia in international collaborations such as the US Cancer Moonshot and the International Agency for Research in Cancer. Professor Zorbas is an author of over 68 peer reviewed publications and contributed to book chapters and many articles on cancer control. In 2013, Professor Zorbas was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in recognition of her distinguished service to public health through leadership in the delivery of improved information and services to cancer patients and their families and contributions to research and clinical trials. Professor Zorbas is Chair of the Board of National Breast Cancer Foundation, non-executive Director on the Board of The Hellenic Initiative Australia and sits on the Governing Committee of Kolling Institute of medical research. She also holds academic positions as Adjunct Professor in the School of Medicine at both University of Sydney and University of NSW.



Professor Apostolopoulos AM is a Distinguished Professor at RMIT University, and Director of the Longevity and Chronic Diseases Program.
Her pioneering research work in immunology, vaccine development, and healthy ageing led to the world's first immunotherapy technique to stimulate the immune system, now used in hundreds of labs and over 40 clinical trials for breast and ovarian cancer. With 550+ peer-reviewed publications, 20 patents, and supervision of 100+ postgraduate students, she ranks among the top 0.13% of researchers globally.
Professor Apostolopoulos has held senior leadership roles including Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research and Associate Provost at Victoria University, and directed programs at the Austin Research Institute, Burnet Institute, AIMSS, and the Institute for Health and Sport, with additional experience at Oxford University, Scripps Research Institute, and ANU.
Professor Apostolopoulos has received 100+ awards, including the Premier's Award for Medical Research, Young Australian of the Year (Vic), Commander Order of the Phoenix, Gold Cross of St Andrew and the Prix Galien.
She is also Patron of the Greek Australian Women's Food for Thought Network.



Professor Makrides is the Executive Director of the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI).
As a clinical nutritionist, Professor Makrides is committed to improving the nutrition and health of mothers and their babies through the conduct and translation of high-quality research. Professor Makrides' work has been responsible for changes in international policy regarding the safe composition of infant foods, national and international guidance on diet and supplementation during pregnancy, and infant feeding guidelines to minimise the risk of childhood allergies. She has been responsible for the design and implementation of a world first program to reduce the risk of early preterm birth. She is an elected Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Science, and in 2022 was awarded South Australian Scientist of the Year.
With her family, she arrived in Australia in November 1974, following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.



Professor Kavallaris AM is a globally recognised expert in cancer biology and nanomedicine, known for uncovering resistance mechanisms and developing innovative cancer treatments. Her work on nanoparticle delivery systems has led to patents and clinical partnerships. Professor Kavallaris is Head of Translational Cancer Nanomedicine at the Children's Cancer Institute. She chaired the Australian Institute for Policy and Science and is a Life Member and former President of the Australian Society for Medical Research. Her accolades include Eureka Prizes, NSW Premier's Science and Engineering Award, the Lemberg Medal, and recognition among the AFR/Westpac 100 Women of Influence and Knowledge Nation 100. As a Fellow of leading Australian scientific academies, an advocate and mentor, she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2019 and named 2020 NSW Premier's Woman of the Year, continuing to inspire innovation.



Dr Georgousakis is a research scientist, social entrepreneur, and champion for inclusivity in health and medical research. She began her career researching vaccines for group A streptococcus before transitioning into health policy, supporting the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation. She later joined the Bupa Health Foundation as Research and Policy Manager, fostering partnerships to improve public health.
Melina is the founder and director of Franklin Women, a social enterprise with a mission to create a thriving environment for women in science. Under her leadership, the organisation has grown significantly, representing thousands of women and 24 partner workplaces. Her contributions have earned her accolades including the Eureka Prize for Outstanding Mentor of Young Researchers, ProBono Australia's 25 People of Impact, the Edna Award, and the Women's Agenda Leadership Award. She has also served as a judge for the Australian Technology Competition and the Eureka Awards and shared her journey on the TEDx stage.

Philanthropy



Faye Spiteri OAM is the Chief Executive Officer of Fronditha Care.
She is an accomplished CEO with extensive experience in executive leadership roles across government, corporate and for purpose sectors. Her areas of expertise include aged care, cultural and religious diversity, gender parity, social justice, access and equity and social cohesion.
In February 2021, she was appointed CEO of Fronditha Care - a leading provider of aged care services and is committed to building on the legacy of the organisation in provision of care to the Greek and broader Australian community. She was also the first female President and Board Chair of the organisation and ended her 9-year tenure in 2019. Faye is a committee member of Ageing Australia, Victoria Council and Board Member of Centre for Muslim Wellbeing.
Passionate about achieving better social outcomes driven by genuine collaboration and engagement. In 2021 she was recognised with a Medal of the Order (OAM) for her contribution to driving social change and inducted to the Victorian Honour Roll for Women as a Change Agent in 2019. In August she received the prestigious Leadership Award 2025 from Ageing Australia for her vison, leadership and commitment to the aged care sector.



Vasiliki Antoniou is the founder and Chair of The Children's Golden Angels, a South Australian charity supporting children with life-limiting diseases and their families. She launched the foundation in 2014 after discovering a gap in government support, rallying the community through grassroots fundraising events like the now-iconic Golden Angels High Tea. Having Panagia as their Patron, and with an amazing group of 12 women, under her leadership, the organization has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to provide vital services, and these funds have gone towards funeral costs, home equipment, transportation assistance, and other vital support for families navigating the challenges of paediatric palliative care and children with childhood Dementia.
Vasiliki's work is deeply shaped by her faith, family and Greek heritage, which she credits for instilling values of compassion, resilience, and community. Her efforts have united women across generations, creating a powerful network of care and advocacy.
Alongside her charitable work, Vasiliki has served in the South Australian State Government and continues to champion causes that uplift families in crisis. Her story is one of heart, heritage, and hands-on leadership.



Helen Mantzis is a Board Member of the Hellenic Museum. She is a published, award-winning marketer and strategic brand leader with a career spanning luxury, lifestyle, and cultural sectors. She serves on the Council and Marketing Board of Melbourne Grammar School, is a Board Member of The Australian Ballet and the Hellenic Museum and supports cancer research through the Australian Breast Cancer Giving Circle. Helen is an accomplished moderator and conversationalist, having led panels for The Hellenic Initiative and engaged global leaders including Steve Hasker (Thomson Reuters), John Wylie, and Thaleia Karafillidou (former Vogue Greece editor).
As the founder of Loopels, an evolving platform and soon to launch podcast, Helen explores stories of resilience, reinvention, and the moments that define us, drawing on her own experience as a cancer survivor, while bridging culture, business, and community impact.
Her distinguished marketing career includes leadership roles at Just Group and Kay & Burton, and consulting on high-impact brand launches such as Debenhams Australia, Vera Wang Home, and Harriet Bedding.



Alexandra Vakitsidis OAM is the Former President of the Port Adelaide Philanthropic Society. She has played a leading role in community development across Port Adelaide and the Greek-Australian community for more than four decades. Her work includes organizing weekly luncheons for seniors, coordinating home visits, and supporting aged care initiatives.
She served as President of the Port Adelaide Philanthropic Society for five years, overseeing fundraising efforts for hospitals and medical research. Her leadership helped drive practical outcomes for local health services and community support programs. In recognition of her contributions, Alexandra was named Citizen of the Year by the City of Port Adelaide Enfield in 2019 and awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community.
Alexandra's approach is hands-on, collaborative, and focused on delivering real impact through volunteer networks and cultural engagement.



Stergitsa Zamagias-Hill is the Chief Executive Officer of The Hellenic Initiative Australia (THI Australia), a national charity dedicated to mobilising the Greek diaspora to support Greece's future.
She brings extensive leadership experience in philanthropy, education, and the arts. Prior to joining THI Australia, Stergitsa served as Director of Alumni and Community Engagement at the University of New South Wales, where she advanced programs promoting student equity and alumni relations. Her career also includes senior roles with the Australia Council for the Arts and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.
A graduate of the University of Sydney, she is a committed advocate for cultural heritage and serves as Secretary of the Australian Parthenon Committee, campaigning for the return of the Parthenon Sculptures.
Under her leadership, THI Australia has delivered millions in aid to Greek charities, fostering resilience and opportunity across communities in Greece.

Arts & Culture



Dr Helen Vatsikopoulos is a Walkley Award winning journalist, academic, documentary maker. · As an award-winning journalist and academic, she has had a career spanning over forty years. Dr Vatsikopoulos worked for ABC's *7.30 Report*, *Lateline* and *Foreign Correspondent*, as well as SBS's *Face the Press* and *Dateline*, Australia's longest-running international current affairs program. She received a Walkley Award for Excellence in Journalism for her coverage of the USSR's collapse and its emerging states.
For a decade, she taught Advanced Journalism at the University of Technology Sydney and has lectured internationally in Greece, Sweden, and Denmark. Holding a Doctorate in Creative Arts from UTS, she has produced three documentaries and co-curated exhibitions, including one on Greek political exiles featured at major festivals. Currently, she is Artistic Director of the Greek-Australian Writers Festival and editor of *Hellenic Dreaming*, an anthology of diasporic writing soon to be translated and published in Greece.



Effy Alexakis is a multi-award winning documentary photographer, having worked her whole career as a photographer; for decades employed at Macquarie University. In her personal work, as a documentary photographer she is considered a pioneer in debunking Greek-Australian stereotypes and presenting the complex personal, diverse and evolving faces, lifestyles and occupations of Greek-Australians, across generations. In the early1980s, female photographers in Australia, let alone those from non-English speaking background, were under-represented and overlooked. Effy firmly challenged this status quo.
Awarded numerous state, national and international grants for her research and exhibitions, in 2020, *O Kosmos: Effy Alexakis – A Celebration of her Work* won Publication of the Year in the NSW Premier's Multicultural Communications Awards. In 2022 she was awarded Woman of Influence by the Hellenic Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry. In 2025 she was awarded an OEEGA NSW Award of Excellence for her documentation of the Greek-Australian community. With her partner, they have published 5 books and Effy's photography has been exhibited widely throughout Australia as well as in Athens and Thessaloniki. In March 2025, they announced the gifting of their huge archive *In Their Own Image: Greek-Australians* to the State Library of NSW. They are currently fund raising to do the digitization of this project.



Nina Angelo OAM is a celebrated Australian artist, author, poet, storyteller, and community advocate whose creative career spans over five decades. Born in Athens shortly after WWII, she migrated to Sydney in 1949 with her parents, both Holocaust survivors who met in Auschwitz. After studying at the National Art School in the 1960s, Nina devoted her practice to textiles and community arts, leading transformative projects across Australia, the Pacific, and Europe.
Her contributions have earned widespread recognition, including an Order of Australia Medal for service to the Arts and the Central Coast community. She was Artist in Residence in Fiji, supported by the Australia Council for the Arts, and received both the Australia Day Community Awards and the Edna Ryan Feminist Award for empowering women through the arts. Nina has founded and led numerous festivals, workshops, and cultural initiatives, using art and storytelling as tools for healing and social change.
Nina's memoir, *Don't Cry, Dance*, weaves together her parents' Holocaust survival and migration stories with her own journey as an artist and activist. Today, she continues to inspire as a motivational speaker, intuitive artist, mentor, and poet - gathering women to share stories, heal intergenerational trauma, and celebrate cultural identity.



Elizabeth Kaydos is a producer and researcher with 25 years of experience in documentary and factual television. She has created stories across many genres for broadcasters including National Geographic, Discovery, SBS, ABC, and Foxtel's History Channel. Born to parents from Lemnos who migrated to Australia in the 1950s, Elizabeth's heritage has deeply influenced her storytelling. In 2006, she discovered the resting place of Anzac soldiers on Lemnos, sparking a two-decade campaign to revive the island's forgotten World War I history. That work culminated in *Anzac. Lemnos.1915.*, which premiered on SBS On Demand in 2024, and in 2023 she guided Australia's Governor-General and Greece's President at the groundbreaking of the Lemnos Remembrance Trail.
Elizabeth's work reflects a commitment to authenticity, collaboration, and uncovering diverse cultural narratives — values that continue to shape her contribution to Australia's creative landscape.