



NIKI VINCENT, BA PSYCH (HONS), MAICD, AFAIM - CHIEF EXECUTIVE, LEADERS INSTITUTE OF SA

Niki is the Chief Executive of the Leaders Institute of SA and has been running the Governor's Leadership Foundation Program since October 2002. Prior to this, Niki had a diverse career - including running two family businesses, as a senior social researcher with the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction in Adelaide, coordinating the International Heart and Vascular Diseases Research and Development Program at the Institute for International Health in Sydney, as well as National Manager for Kids First Foundation – a children's charity supporting services for abused and neglected children. Niki has published on a diversity of issues and has co-authored two books.

Niki was awarded a University Medal by the University of Adelaide and graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Psychology in 1996. She was also awarded the Australian Psychological Society Prize for her Honours research on alcohol-related neuropsychological impairment. She is currently undertaking a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studying adult development at the University of Adelaide. In 2006 she attended the Kennedy School at Harvard University and completed an executive program in 'The Art and Practice of Leadership Development'. That same year she also won a scholarship to study leadership in sustainability at the Integral Institute in Colorado. She graduated from the Centre for Social Leadership's Sydney Leadership program in 2001.

Niki has won several awards throughout her career, including a 2007 Australian DAVOS Future Summit Leadership Award conferred by the Rt Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen and a Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award (2005 SA Finalist).

Niki served on the SA Higher Education Council from 2003-2008 and on the SA Premier's Roundtable for Sustainability from 2003-2007. In 2006, she was one of 15 community leaders that oversaw the updating of the targets in the SA Strategic Plan. From 2000-2007 she was co-Chairman of FIDO (a Sydney-based volunteering organisation) and she is currently on the board of Community Leadership Australia, the national peak body for community leadership programs. She is also an accredited business governance volunteer trainer with Australian Business Volunteers (ABV) - an AusAid funded organisation offering training in developing countries in the Pacific Region – and a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Niki has four children, Kyla (28) – a lawyer, Tami (26) – in media and public relations, Anthony (24) – a cabinetmaker (and car-maker), and Robert (22) – a photographer. She also has two grandchildren – Charlotte (8) and Poppy (5) – and one more on the way. She and her husband Simon Divecha (a consultant in environmental sustainability) also have a dog called Fred and they love travel, bushwalking, film, reading, skiing and evenings spent discussing ideas with friends over food and wine in the gardens of their beautiful 2 acre property in Waterfall Gully. Niki is in the Institute office from Monday to Thursday (she works on her PhD from Friday to Sunday).