

Professor Barry McGaw AO Citation

Professor Barry McGaw has had a distinguished career in educational research and policy that has been recognised in an appointment as an Officer in the Order of Australia (2004), the awards of an Australian Centenary Medal (2001), the University of Illinois International Alumnus Award for Exceptional Achievement (2005), a Distinguished Alumnus Award of the College of Education, University of Illinois (2001), the Medals of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (2012) and the Australian College of Educators (1994), election to Fellowship in the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (1984), the Australian Psychological Society (1984) and the Australian College of Educators (1976) and appointment as an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (2014).

Following an early career as a science teacher and then head of the Research and Curriculum Branch in the Queensland Department of Education, he was appointed at the age of 34 as Professor of Education at Murdoch University. There he established a reputation that led to influential roles in educational research and policy as Executive Director of the Australian Council for Educational Research in Melbourne (a national, independent, not-for-profit company established by the Carnegie Corporation in 1930) and Director for Education at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

Following retirement from the OECD, he took a series of part-time roles in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, first as the founding Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute, then as Executive Director of a Cisco, Intel, Microsoft International Assessment and Teaching of 21st Century Skills project, a Vice-Chancellor's Fellow and Interim Director of the Assessment Research Centre. He continues at the University of Melbourne as a part-time Professorial Fellow and Co-Director of the Australian National Development Index project.

McGaw served in the 1980s on the Commonwealth Tertiary Education Commission and its Universities Advisory Council as well as the Quality of Education Review Committee chaired by Professor Peter Karmel. He chaired reviews of upper secondary curriculum and assessment in WA and the ACT and undertook a major review of the NSW Higher School Certificate as a sole reviewer. While at the OECD, he was a panel member for two reviews for the English Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and also undertook work for the Irish and Canadian governments. In 2008, he was appointed by the Australian Government as the foundation Chair of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) which produced the first national curriculum for Australia, now adopted for Foundation Year to Year 10 across the country.

Alongside his institutional leadership roles in educational research and policy, Professor McGaw has more than 100 personal publications.

Professor McGaw has also made a substantial contribution to professional associations through, among other things, terms as President of Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, Australian College of Educators, the Australian Psychological Society, the International Association for Educational Assessment and the Australian Association for Research in Education.