

Australian Early Development Index

Spokespeople Biographies

Professor Frank Oberklaid

Professor Frank Oberklaid is the Founding Director of the Centre for Community Child Health at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne and a Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Melbourne.

Professor Oberklaid is an internationally recognised researcher, author, lecturer and consultant. He has edited two books, numerous book chapters, and over 150 scientific papers on various aspects of paediatrics. He is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, and is on the editorial boards of several international journals. He has received a number of prestigious awards for his work, including a Medal in the Order of Australia in 1998, a Centenary Medal from the Commonwealth of Australia in 2003, the John Sands Medal from the Royal Australasian College of Physicians in 2003, and the Chairman's Medal from The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne in 2003.

Professor Oberklaid is currently Deputy Chair of the Victorian Children's Council, which provides expert advice to the Premier and the Minister for Children on policies and services for children.

His current interests include early childhood development, prevention and early detection/early intervention, and especially how existing services to young children and families can be refocused and better coordinated to improve outcomes. He is co-convenor of a four country international collaboration on developing comprehensive community based early childhood initiatives.

Professor Oberklaid is co-chair of the Australian Early Development Index Steering Group.



Professor Steve Zubrick

Professor Zubrick is currently Head of Population Sciences at the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research and Co-Director of the Centre for Developmental Health at Curtin University of Technology.

Professor Zubrick completed his doctoral and postdoctoral work in psychology at The University of Michigan and worked in mental health settings for many years before starting at the Institute in 1991.

His research interests include the social determinants of health and mental health in children, systematic studies of youth suicide, and large scale psychosocial survey work in non-Indigenous and Indigenous populations.

Professor Zubrick is considered a leading Australian authority in the epidemiology of child and adolescent mental health and in public health approaches to promotion and prevention of mental health. He chairs the Consortium Advisory Group of the Longitudinal Study of Australian Children and featured in the ABC TV's 'Life' documentary series.

Professor Zubrick is co-chair of the Australian Early Development Index (AEDI) Steering Group.

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More information about the AEDI is available at www.aedi.org.au