**LAUNCH CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN COGNITIVE HEALTH**

**PENINSULA ROOM, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AUSTRALIA**

**10.00AM, WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE 2016**

**PUBLIC FORUM: MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS**

**BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF SPEAKERS**

**Professor Kaarin J. Anstey**

**Director, Centre of Research Excellence in Cognitive Health**

**Biography**

Kaarin J. Anstey is a Professor of Psychology and Population Health at the Australian National University and an ANU Public Policy Fellow. Anstey is Director of the Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing and Director of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre, Early Diagnosis and Prevention. Her substantive research interests focus on the prevention of cognitive decline, cognitive impairment and dementia. Anstey has worked extensively with longitudinal studies and leads the PATH Through Life study, a 16-year population-based study of three cohorts, including over 7000 adults, spanning early to late adulthood. Anstey is also involved in several interventions to prevent cognitive decline and reduce risk of dementia. She led the first online dementia risk reduction intervention and the development and validation of the first online risk assessment tool for Alzheimer’s tool that uses only self-report measures.

**Associate Professor Nicolas Cherbuin, Australian National University**

**Chief Investigator, Centre of Research Excellence in Cognitive Health**

**Biography**

Associate Professor Nicolas Cherbuin is an ARC Future Fellow with expertise in psychology, epidemiology and neuroscience. He leads the NeuroImaging and Brain Lab (nimbl) at the Centre for Research on Ageing, Health and Wellbeing (CRAHW) in the Research School of Population Health (RSPH) at ANU. His research interests focus on investigating the factors that contribute to cognitive and mental health and wellbeing across the adult lifespan and identifying their cerebral correlations. His lab uses prospective data acquired through self-report, objective measurement, biological assays and neuroimaging from large cohorts of individuals living in the community to contrast the relative contribution of a variety of factors to mental health and wellbeing, and to consider the directionality and temporal characteristics of their association with brain structure and function across time.  Cherbuin is also a member of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centres initiative and is interested in the development of tools to assess risk exposure to factors that contribute to accelerated brain and cognitive ageing, to initiate behaviour change to minimise risk exposure, and to implement interventions to optimise mental health and wellbeing across the lifespan.

**Professor Nicola Lautenschlager, University of Melbourne**

**Chief Investigator, Centre of Research Excellence in Cognitive Health**

**Biography**

Nicola Lautenschlager, MD, FRANZCP, is an academic old age psychiatrist who received her undergraduate and postgraduate training in Munich, Germany. Between 2000 and 2008 Nicola worked at the University of Western Australia in Perth. She is the current University of Melbourne Professor & Chair of Psychiatry of Old Age as well as Director of Research in the Aged Persons Mental Health Program. She is also the current Editor-in-Chief of the scientific journal *International Psychogeriatrics*. She works as consultant psychiatrist in acute and sub-acute clinical settings. Her current research aims to explore strategies to improve mental and cognitive health outcomes in older age.

**Professor Ester Cerin, Australian Catholic University**

**Chief Investigator, Centre of Research Excellence in Cognitive Health**

**Biography**

Ester Cerin is a psychologist and statistician. She holds Professorial positions at the Institute for Health and Ageing at the Australian Catholic University, and the School of Public Health at the University of Hong Kong. Her research interests focus on environmental and psychosocial determinants of lifestyle behaviours and health across the lifespan. She holds an ARC Future Fellowship on urban design and active ageing, and is the chief analyst and one of the main investigators of two large multi-country studies on environmental determinants of physical activity and obesity funded by the National Institute of Health, USA.  She leads the research program on the neighbourhood built environment, active ageing and cognitive health at the Institute for Health and Ageing in Melbourne, and is Deputy Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity.

**Adjunct Professor Paul Kelly, ACT Health**

**Master of Ceremonies**

**Biography**

Adjunct Professor Paul Kelly is a public health physician, epidemiologist and health service executive. He is currently Chief Health Officer for the Australian Capital Territory and Executive Director of Population Health in the ACT Government Health Directorate.

Dr Kelly has over 25 years research experience and has published over 100 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His research and professional interests include infectious diseases, in particular influenza and tuberculosis, and more recently systems approaches to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, in particular obesity and diabetes.

**Adam Shirley, 666 ABC Canberra Drive Program**

**Moderator**

**Biography**

Adam Shirley spent much of his early days on the shores of Corio Bay in Geelong, nestled amongst the endless vistas of oil refineries and wood chipping mills.

He's since wandered into Canberra and has yet to find the exit.

Born in England, Adam is a cricket tragic who has previously packed trucks, prepared food and pulled the odd hotel night shift for a crust.

He is a scientist by trade, has entertained kids of all ages at Questacon and still embraces his inner nerd.