
DR SEV OZDOWSKI OAM FAICD



resume

PO Box A959
Sydney South NSW 1235

home/fax +61 (0)2 9699 7757

work +61 (0)2 9678 7375

mobile +61 (0)413 474 744

email sevozdo@gmail.com; s.ozdowski@uws.edu.au

Foreign languages Polish, German, Russian and some French

EDUCATION

- 2008** *Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), Sydney*
- 1989-90** *Executive Development Scheme. Work placements in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Parliament House and BHP-Utah Minerals International*
- 1984-86** *Harkness Fellowship. Post-doctoral work on race relations, international human rights and immigration law and public administration at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Georgetown University, Washington, DC and University of California, Berkeley, California, USA*
- 1982** *Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology of Law, University of New England, Armidale, Australia*
- 1974-75** *Postgraduate Study in Development and Political Science, University of Hamburg, Germany*
- 1974** *Diploma of German Language, Volkshochschule, Hamburg, Germany*
- 1973** *Master of Arts in Sociology (Hons.), Department of Sociology, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland*
- 1971** *Master of Laws (Hons.), Faculty of Law, A. Mickiewicz University, Poland*

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2006 to present

Director, Equity and Diversity, University of Western Sydney (UWS), Penrith

The position reports to Deputy Vice Chancellor and is responsible for development and implementation of UWS social justice and equity policies, including creation of culture of inclusion and mutual respect, recruitment and successful progression of students from disadvantaged and minority backgrounds, dealing with cases of harassment, bullying, racism, unlawful discrimination, adjustment for people with disabilities, homophobia, EEO and a range of ethical issues and participating in the appeals to the UWS Senate.

Honorary Professor, Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies, the University of Sydney

I teach international and Australian human rights law, history and concepts; social research methodology for senior students and supervise PhD students.

Independent Expert - Human Rights, Capacity Building & Cultural Diversity.

Consultancies: Several assignments in Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vanuatu, United Kingdom, Poland and Australia, including: development of a report on '*Human Rights and Mental Health*' for the International Seminar Making the Connection: Human Rights and Mental Health, organised by the British Council on 5-8 March in Edinburgh; a presentation on '*The Australian System of Protection of Rights of People with Disabilities - the Laws and Practices*' at the National Conference on Disabled Rights in Colombo, Sri Lanka on (22-24 February); and delivering human rights training for senior police in Asia Pacific.

2000 to 2005

*Australian Human Rights Commissioner and Disability Discrimination Commissioner
Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Sydney*

Appointed on 7 December 2000 for a five-year term to the national statutory positions of Human Rights Commissioner (under the *Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986*) and Disability Discrimination Commissioner (under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992*).

Key achievements included:

- *National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention - 'A last resort?'*- the Inquiry placed the issue of children in detention camps on the national agenda, delivered a high-profile report to Parliament which resulted in children with their parents being released from mandatory detention, and in legislative and policy changes.
- *National Inquiry into Mental Health Services - 'Not for Service - Experiences of injustices and despair in mental health care in Australia'*- the Inquiry placed the issue of mentally illness on the national agenda and resulted in reform of and major budgetary increases for mental health services in Australia.
- *National Inquiry into Disability and Employment WORKability* - resulted in a Parliamentary report and the establishment of new policies and programs to assist people with a disability gaining and maintaining employment.

- The establishment of *National Disability Standards* dealing with access to education, public transport and premises and the establishment of a range of voluntary industry standards dealing with access to electronic banking, captioning, etc.
- *Children and Human Rights Education Report* – delivered changes in human rights education.
- *Criminal Record and Employment Discrimination Guidelines*.
- Instrumental to the establishment of the first *Australian Age Discrimination Act* in 2004 and the elimination of discrimination in conditions of service of Australian Defence Force personnel in same sex relationships.
- *National Dialogue on Human Rights* education campaign which involved over 130 keynote speeches about different Human Rights issues.
- Two nationally televised *addresses at the National Press Club*: one on children in immigration detention and one on mental health in Australia.

The position involved intensive interaction with government and civil society in Australia, as well as international work with the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Bangkok offices. This included work on the new UN Convention on Rights of People with Disabilities; work with the national human rights institutions of the Asian-Pacific region, and; the delivery of human rights technical assistance programs to selected developing countries.

For more see: www.humanrights.gov.au

1996-2000

Chief Executive Officer

Office of Multicultural and International Affairs, Adelaide, South Australia

Responsible to the Premier of South Australia and his Parliamentary Secretary (since 1999 to CEO DPC) for direction and management of the agency responsible for multicultural and broad international issues. This including: whole of government coordination, community relations, running the Interpreting and Translating Centre and selected economic matters (eg. Immigration SA program and country specific chambers of commerce). OMIA had 34 permanent and over 270 casual staff and budget of \$5million.

For more see: www.premcab.sa.gov.au/html/mulint-affairs.html

1994-1996

Senior Adviser.

Community Relations Section, Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC). Acted as Branch Head.

Responsible for the management of the department's community relations, including a \$3million program of grants under the Community Relations Agenda.

1993-94

Senior Executive Officer

The Centenary of Federation Secretariat, Government Division, PMC

Responsible for the development of the '2001. A Report from Australia' (so-called Kirner report) for consideration by the Council of Australian Governments. The report identified goals and strategies for the celebration of the centenary of federation.

1991-1993 Head

Access and Equity (A&E) Evaluation Taskforce and Adviser

Senior Industry and

Economic Section (I&E), OMA, PMC. Acted as Branch Head

Managed the 1991-92 *Evaluation of the A&E Strategy*. This was a ground breaking cross-portfolio evaluation in the social policy area. The government accepted all its recommendations. The Prime Minister launched the report and requested that departments implement it "with vigour". The Department of Finance named the evaluation as a "good practice" model.

Managed the Industry and Economic Section responsible for the development of policy on NESB unemployment for Dr Keating's Taskforce on Employment Opportunities and advancement of the Prime Minister's *Productive Diversity* initiative. The Minister Assisting praised the contributions as an "excellent" achievement.

1990-91

Senior Adviser

Legal, Information and Review Section, Government and Legal Branch, PMC. Acted as Branch Head

Responsible for advice on a range of "machinery of government" and sensitive legal issues, including: constitutional, electoral, privacy and administrative law matters; co-ordination of departmental responses to the *Freedom of Information Act* requests and to subpoenas and affidavits; handling of public interest immunity issues and "refresh memory" requests from former politicians; and the 'shadowing' of relevant agencies (particularly AG's Department) and court developments.

1989-90

The **APS Executive Development Scheme** placements as follows:

- **Special Adviser**

Soviet Union and East Europe, Exploration Department, Asia Pacific Division, BHP-Utah Minerals International (Nov-Apr)

Responsible for the BHP-Utah Soviet Far East Minerals Project, including assessment of the USSR joint venture law and direct negotiations with relevant Soviet bureaucracies.

- **Sub-Committee Secretary**

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, Parliament House (Jul-Nov)

Responsible for the Inquiry into the National Safety Council of Australia (Victorian Division).

- **Director**

The Australia-Indonesia Institute, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Feb-June)

In charge of the establishment and management of the Institute and its programs.

1987-89

Senior Adviser

OMA, PMC.

Also acted as *Assistant Secretary*, Policy and Research Branch

Assisted with the establishment of the Office, and then was Executive Officer to the Advisory Council of Multicultural Affairs and in charge of the regional network. Between June 1987 and October 1988, I was responsible for the development of a *National Agenda for Multicultural Australia* which involved supervision and conduct of Australia-wide consultations and major research programs. The National Agenda remains the foundation of the government's multicultural policies. I was also responsible for the development of a program of activities for the newly-established *Australia Multicultural Foundation*. Many of the activities I proposed became the Foundation's permanent programs (eg. the Australian Language Certificates).

1986-87

Clerical Administrative Officer Class 11

Community Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Department

Management of the Commonwealth Community Legal Centre Program and policy advice on matters relating to legal aid.

1986 (Sept)

Adviser (secondment)

Department of Foreign Affairs

Worked on the negotiations on consular agreement between Australia and Poland.

1981-86

Project Officer/Director

Principal

Human Rights

Commission (HRC). Also acted as Principal Legal Officer and Assistant Secretary

First worked in the Human Rights Bureau, Attorney-General's Department, on the establishment of HRC. I was then responsible for HRC in-house and externally commissioned research. Also responsible for management of HRC offices in Queensland, Northern Territory and Tasmania and co-operative arrangements between the Commonwealth and other States; conciliation work; and community education program.

Represented the HRC in negotiations in Australia and overseas: during the 42nd Session of the UN HRC in Geneva, February 1986; and in discussions with human rights officials and activists in Canada, USA and Latin America. Between 1983-84, I worked as Secretary for the Inquiry into the *Migration Act 1958*, which provided a blueprint for reform of the migration law.

1980-81

Research Officer

Principal

Commonwealth Legal Aid

Commission, Canberra

Responsible for in-house and contracted socio-legal research, community education, liaison with state legal aid authorities, ngo's, universities and consultancy firms.

1973-79

Undertook a *range of research, tutoring and factory jobs in Germany and Australia*

1971-73

Officer

Legal Studies, the Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

Research

Institute of

Member of a research team investigating causes of workers' unrest in Polish shipyards in 1970. The research predicted the emergence of the Solidarity movement of the 1980s.

PUBLICATIONS

I have co-authored one book on the sociology of law, published academic papers (in American, Australian, British and Polish journals), lead writing and/or written several major government reports and written numerous opinion pieces, submissions and policy papers. Presented over 250 major papers and conference speeches.

AWARDS

- 2007 Officers Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland
- 2005 Solidarity 25th Anniversary Medal awarded by the Republic of Poland
FECCA 25th Anniversary Medal for Contribution to Australian Multiculturalism
- 2004 Doctor of Social Science *Honoris Causa*, RMIT University, Melbourne
- 2000 Chevalier of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland
- 1998 Life Honorary Member, Poland Australia Society, Warsaw, Poland
- 1995 Order of Australia Medal

MEMBERSHIPS

- Australia Day Ambassador (since 2009)
- Fellow, Australian Institute of Company Directors (since 2009)
- Member, UWS Indigenous Employment and Engagement Advisory Board (since 2008)
- Director/Board Member, Chain Reaction Foundation (since 2008) www.chainreaction.org.au
- President, Australian Chapter, World Organisation to Investigate the Persecution of Falun Gong (since 2007)
- President, National Committee on Human Rights Education, Australia (since 2006)
- Patron, Social Firms Australia Ltd (since 2005)
- Patron, Chances for Children, Mildura, Vic (since 2001)
- Trustee, South Australian Business Vision 2010 Viva SA (since 1998-2003)
- Founding Member and Trustee, Australian Institute of Polish Affairs (since 1989)
- Founding Member, Australia Poland Business Council (since 1983)
- Life Member, Order of Australia Association

Board Member, Graduate International School of Business and Administration, SA University (1997-99)

Board Member, SA Overseas Qualifications Committee (1996-98)

Board Member, Council of International Trade and Commerce of South Australia (1996-99)

Member, National Security Legislation Review Committee (2005)

Member, Community Consultative Council, Westpac Bank (2004-06)

Member, Australian Institute of International Affairs (since 1981)

Member, Cofradia de la Tierra del Espiritu Santo (Spanish Brotherhood) (since 1998)

Member, Rotary International (since 1994)

Member, The American Society of International Law (since 1985-95)

Member, Australian Institute of Administrative Law South Australian Chapter (1997-99)

Member, Advisory Council of Chinese Chamber of Commerce Inc, Adelaide (1997-2000)

Member, SA 2000 Olympic/Paralympics Steering Committee (1998-2000)