Virginia Haussegger is the face of ABC TV News in Canberra and an Adjunct Professor in the ANZSOG Institute for Governance. She is an award-winning journalist, author, and social commentator whose extensive media career spans more than 20 years. Her work has taken her around the world, reporting for Australia’s leading current affairs programs, on Channel 9, the 7 Network and the ABC. In the late 80s, she was the youngest woman to be appointed host of the ABC’s flagship program the 7.30 Report and went on to host that show in four capital cities. Virginia has been published across a range of media. As a weekly columnist for The Canberra Times and regular contributor to The National Times and The Age, her outspoken views on women and their place in contemporary society have been widely debated in the Australian media, in public forums, and on talkback radio. Virginia’s seminal article on feminism and childlessness was ranked by The Age newspaper as among the most significant opinion pieces published in its 150-year history. Virginia’s book Wonder Woman: the myth of 'having it all', was launched at the National Press Club in 2005 by Julia Gillard and broadcast live on ABC TV. A highly sought after speaker and an active community member, Virginia regularly addresses corporate and government forums on a diverse range of issues including women, power and leadership. Virginia also has a long association with the arts and sits on various boards and committees. She is President of the Canberra International Film Festival.

Roxanne Missingham is the Parliamentary Librarian, at the Australian Parliamentary Library. She is responsible for delivery of information, analysis and advice services to the parliamentary, particularly Senators and Members.

The Library provides approximately 20,000 commissioned pieces of research and over 250 general briefs and publications each year. She has also led major projects for the Department of Parliamentary Service including the digitisation of Hansard back to 1901, the new Parliament of Australia website and the system providing access to bills, Hansard, other parliamentary and library materials.


Roxanne has won a number of awards including the Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Canberra, Chief’s Award, CSIRO Division of Wildlife and Ecology, CSIRO Chief Executive’s Study Award, Doreen Goodwin Award of the University of Canberra, Library and Information Studies Program, Australian Library and Information Association ACT Merit Award and Australian Library and Information Association New Graduates Coaches Gold Medal.

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The ANZSOG Institute for Governance set up a reference group earlier this year to develop a series of activities which highlight the contribution of women to public sector excellence and give voice to their achievements. The Group was Chaired by Professor Meredith Edwards and included: Glenys Beauchamp (Deputy Secretary, Governance in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet); Catherine Fox (Deputy Editor, AFR BOSS); Virginia Haussegger (Journalist, Author, Media Commentator and TV News Presenter); Sally Moyle (Branch Manager, Office for Women, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs); Monica Pfeffer (Director Strategic Projects, ANZSOG); Judy Tyers (Director of Applied Learning, ANZSOG); and, Elizabeth Whitelaw (Canberra Chair of Partners, Minter Ellison).

The Group decided that developing a series of activities which highlighted the contribution of women to public sector excellence and gave voice to their achievements was an important project for sustaining commitment to workplace equality. It was argued that the project should emphasize celebration of achievement rather than bemoaning structural obstacles to gender equality. It was also noted, however, that it was important to develop a methodology of engagement which allowed for identification of such obstacles and the development of a set of policy prescriptions. This ‘Talking Heads’ series is the outcome of this process of deliberation. Over the next 12 months, eight spectacular women will talk about the highs and the lows of their career journeys in the public service. Today’s event will launch the series with Virginia Haussegger interviewing three spectacular servants – Roxanne Missingham, Lisa Paul and Tu Pham – on a pre-determined set of topics such as where women are at in the public service, how they understand their history, what they aspire to be, what they see equality as, what this means for job design and work-life balance and how they have been able to negotiate institutional obstacles and rise to the top. A policy team has been invited to the launch and subsequent events with the role of identifying and reporting the policy implications arising from the Talking Heads series in a report to the APSC.

### LISA PAUL

Lisa Paul, PSM has been Secretary of the Australian federal Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) since 2007. The portfolio focuses on productivity and is central to Australia’s economic growth through people’s productivity - their education, skills and labour force contributions. The department is organised by the life-cycle: early childhood, schooling, young people’s transitions from school, vocational education, higher education, employment and workplace relations. DEEWR has a key focus on fairness throughout life, whether it is social inclusion measures in local communities or fairness in the workplace.

Prior to this role, Lisa was Secretary of the Department of Education, Science and Training from 2004 to 2007.

DEEWR administers approximately $44.5 billion annually and has about 6,000 staff in over 60 locations in Australia and 25 locations overseas.

Lisa has led some important whole of government work. For example, in 2002 she was asked to lead the Australian Government’s domestic response to the Bali bombings, for which she was awarded a Public Service Medal.

### TU PHAM

Tu Pham has been the Auditor-General for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) since March 2004.

Tu held a number of senior executive roles in the ACT public service, including as Commissioner for ACT Revenue and Deputy Chief Executive of ACT Treasury. Tu participated in various high level inter-governmental committees on tax and financial reforms and also had served on a number of boards including the ACT Legal Aid Commission, ACT Public Trustee Investment Board, the Kingston Foreshore Development Authority and the ACT Government Procurement Board.

Prior to joining the ACT Government, Tu worked with the Queensland Government and the Commonwealth Grants Commission.

Tu was a recipient of the 1998 Australia Day Award of a Public Service Medal for her outstanding services in public administration. In 2008, Tu received the ACT Telstra Business Women’s Award in the Government and community sector.

Tu holds a Bachelor degree in Economics (University of Queensland), and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.