

SENIOR FELLOWS AND FRIENDS

Alert. Relaxed. Collegial.



Recap of 12/16/21 conversation with Dr. Tracey Tay

Dear Senior Fellows and Friends,

We were lucky to have Tracey join us, since she's Acting Chief Executive this month in addition to her usual job as Clinical Executive Director of the CATALYST Directorate at the New South Wales Agency for Clinical Innovation in Australia. That acronym stands for "Care Across the Lifecycle and Society." The org chart PDF [\[here\]](#) shows you what she's dealing with!

Tracey began by honoring the Awabakal people, the original owners of the land on which she lives and works. Her generous, collaborative nature has been getting a workout during the pandemic, as she has provided a foundation for collaboration by creating partnerships to develop guidelines for COVID care in the community and to address delayed diagnosis due to COVID. That foundation also will support treatment and better care for patients with chronic disease in the future. In addition, she watches the global data gathered by a critical intelligence unit and talks with counterparts in other countries. She's a great listener, as shown by the way she picked up on the round of introductions to draw others into the discussion.

Tracey put her finger on the essence of SFF yesterday when she wrote, "I just found that every person had some experience that was so interesting and common with mine. I was greedy to hear! Of course, any one of the stories could have gone for the whole time." We learned quite a bit in 90 minutes, such as:

COVID is top of mind; there are great disparities in vaccination rates, availability and COVID infection rates across the globe:

- Australia is 95% vaccinated whereas India is 38% vaccinated (contributed by Monika Muddamshetty, who joined us in early morning her time).
- Small South Pacific island nations desperately need donations of vaccinations from developed nations for their people and seem to primarily receive them from developed nations when they are about to expire. We need to do better to support people globally! There's a need for equity in distributing vaccinations globally.

Project management skills are needed by medical professionals when taking on something as complex as a global pandemic.

Tracey and Tiffany Garner compared notes on the very different gun violence situations in our two countries.

We also learned that voting is compulsory in Australia and that those over 18 who do not vote can be fined. The process that requires everyone to participate in the electoral process eliminates inequities in who is eligible to vote.

Both Tracey and Michelle Davis (U.S. Virgin Islands Health Commissioner at the time) told us about times they've done the right thing by taking positive action when necessary, whether fully sanctioned or not. This flowed from Geoff Abbott's introduction, when he mentioned his useful book, [Unauthorized Progress-Leading from the Middle: Stories & Proven Strategies for Making Meaningful Impacts.](#)

Geoff's emailed notes supported this recap. Thank you very much, Geoff!

Participant affiliations

ASPA National Capital Area Chapter
Charlestown, RI Town Council, Retired
Department of Education, Retired
Department of the Air Force
Department of Energy
Department of Health and Human Services
Giffords
International Gaming Technology (IGT)
NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation
PMI Pearl City Hyderabad Chapter
PTG International, Inc.
Securities and Exchange Commission
Virginia Commonwealth University

Participants joined from New South Wales, Australia; Wickford, RI; Colorado Springs, CO; Hyderabad, India; and the Washington, DC Metro Area.

There were interesting overlaps in participant knowledge and experience. Each time, we discover commonalities and warm up the space by beginning with a round of introductions. Please consider joining us in the future.

Sincerely,
Kitty Wooley



* * *

Header photo: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kayakers_in_Redwood_City,_California.jpg