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Dr Wendy Sarkissian

is passionate about our future: the future of work, of housing, of communities and of community engagement. She is committed to finding spirited ways to nurture and support an engaged citizenry. Her successful career as consultant and academic in Australia and overseas has provided firsthand knowledge of many contexts, from developers' boardrooms to low-income housing estates. Initially trained as an educator, she holds a Masters of Arts in literature, a Master of Town Planning and a PhD in environmental ethics.

Building a career as a social planning consultant when there was no such discipline, she has pioneered innovative planning and development approaches in an astonishing variety of contexts. This work has earned her forty professional awards. She has worked with senior managers and advisors to government departments and private enterprise, primarily in the urban, community, housing and development sectors.

Widely regarded as a leader in her profession and acclaimed as a humorous and thought-provoking speaker, Dr Sarkissian is a Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia and a Member of the International Board of Global Urban Development. She is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Sustainable Development, Bond University and a Member of the School of Sustainable Development Academic Advisory Panel. From 2006 to 2008 she was Adjunct Professor in the School of Community and Regional Planning, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Wendy has served on Boards in South Australia and Queensland and is the award-winning author of six books on housing and community engagement. Three new books on sustainability and community engagement are forthcoming in 2008 and 2009 from Earthscan Publishers, London.

Dr Sarkissian lives in an intentional ecological community in northern New South Wales.

