

SHARON ORAPELENG



Sharon is a tireless community advocate for social inclusion and social justice with passion for raising community awareness on issues in relation to mental health, domestic violence, disability, diversity, equity and equality as well working with government and other stakeholders on policies to improve services for all Australians.

Sharon has university degrees in Behavioral Sciences (Psychology and Neuro Science) from LaTrobe University-Melbourne, Postgraduate Diploma and Masters in Behavior Management-Bond University-Gold Coast. As well as a mental health professional, she is a cultural diversity consultant to government, non-government organisations and private corporations. She has been delivering Mental Health First Aid as an accredited Instructor to government, non-government organizations and general community for over 9 years, working in senior roles in disability services, mental health, community development, project management and policy.

Sharon's other significant contributions have been her tireless efforts as an advocate and a respected community leader including as the past President of the Queensland African Communities Council. She sits in a number of boards and advisory committees including White Ribbon – Qld Executive Committee.

As social entrepreneur, Sharon created her two businesses Kalahari Designs and Psyched Solutions to support and benefit a number of community projects she is passionate about including supporting marginalized women and children in Botswana and South Africa. She is one of the founders and Director for her family's Orphan Care Center in Botswana which support over 60 vulnerable and orphaned children and young people.

Sharon was honoured in 2013 as one of the 125 Leading Women in Queensland by YWCA and recognized as one of the 100 most influential African Australians by Celebration of African Australians Inc. Sharon is a recognized keynote speaker, event host, change maker and a social entrepreneur.