

Media Panel speakers



Sean Parnell: is the Health Editor and FOI Editor at The Australian newspaper. A multi award-winning journalist, Parnell has worked in the media for 20 years, including a lengthy stint as a political reporter. He is a member of the Open Government Partnership Media Council, a sessional lecturer at Queensland University of Technology, a current affairs panellist for 612 ABC Brisbane and the author of 'Clive: the Story of Clive Palmer'. Parnell is based in Brisbane, where he lives with his wife and two children.

Di Thomas: has been the editor of The Border Mail since 2012. She has over 25 years' experience as a journalist, and has held different senior positions for *The Border Mail* and for the agricultural weekly newspaper, *The Land*. A winner of a Commonwealth Press Union Harry Brittain Fellowship, in 2012, she was part of the team from *The Border Mail* that won two Walkley awards for its landmark series *Ending the Suicide Silence*. Di's has a particular interest in health, education and politics, and is close to completing a law degree with the Legal Practitioners Admission Board and Sydney University, which she hopes will allow her to combine her interest in the law with her writing.



Natalie Ahmat: has been the Presenter of NITV News since September 2008. During her 15 years' career in media she has worked for ABC, National Nine News in Darwin, and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC.) Natalie has experience as a news and Sports Presenter and as a Reporter, as well as on the road experience covering Indigenous and regional issues. While working at ABC's Message Stick programme, Natalie wrote, produced and directed three short documentaries for the program. She was named Indigenous Broadcaster of the Year at the Deadly Awards

in 2012, and has also been nominated in the NT Media Awards, and the United National Association of Australia Media Peace Awards. Being of Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander's descent, Natalie is actively involved in Indigenous and local community events, and is a member of the Lane Cove Council's Aboriginal Advisory Committee.