

LEA WATERS^{PhD}

PSYCHOLOGIST | RESEARCHER | SPEAKER | AUTHOR

[Lea Waters](#) AM, PhD, is an Australian academic, researcher, psychologist, author and speaker who specializes in education, parenting and organizations.

Professor Waters is the Founding Director and Inaugural Gerry Higgins Chair in Positive Psychology at the [Centre for Positive Psychology](#), University of Melbourne where she has held an academic position for 24 years. Lea holds affiliate positions at Cambridge University's [Well-being Institute](#) and the University of Michigan's [Center for Positive Organizations](#). She also holds a position on the Science Board of The University of California, Berkeley's [Greater Good Science Center](#).

Lea has published over 100 peer reviewed scientific publications and has been awarded academic prizes for research excellence by the American Academy of Management and Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management.

In 2015, Professor Waters was listed as one of Australia's Top 100 Women of Influence by the Financial Review. In 2020, Lea was honoured by the Governor General of Australia and made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) which is one of the highest civilian honours in Australia. She was made a member based on her leadership to psychology, education and the mental health sector in Australia.

Lea is the Past President of the International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA) (2017-2019) and is currently a Board member of IPPA as well as being member of the Positive Education Committee on the Global Happiness Council, the Patron for Flourishing Education Japan and the Ambassador for Positive Education Schools Association Australia.

Her book, '[The Strength Switch](#)' was the top release on Amazon in the parenting category and was listed in Top reads for 2017 by Berkeley University's Greater Good Science Centre. It is being translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, Hungarian, Arabic, Spanish, French and Russian.

Lea's work is featured in the Wall Street Journal, TIME.com Magazine, The Washington Post, The Atlantic, the UK Guardian and more.

Lea is the Director of the global education programs: [Visible Wellbeing](#) and the [Strength Switch](#). Her TEDx, [Warning: Being positive is not for the faint hearted!](#), explores how we can use social media to have a positive impact on others' wellbeing and has been viewed more than 120,000 times.

