



## CHARLES KIEFEL AM

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[www.principalsfunds.com](http://www.principalsfunds.com)

Senior Non-Executive Director and Chairman with proven leadership capability with an extensive career in investment banking; board governance, strategy, and vision; finance, stockbroking, funds management, marketing, global networking, commercialising technologies, and stakeholder management in Australia and globally. Renowned as innovator in the privatisation space and valued for skills in inclusiveness and mentoring.

Impactful Board Director and Chair with an extensive global network and capital markets experience beneficial to public and private companies, healthcare entities, and family offices in Australia, Europe, and U.S.

Superior proficiency in macro and micro economic analysis and provision of advice re global outlook; investment and risk management; executive selection; staff motivation, employment contracts and strategies.

Expert in: • Board Governance • Alliances  
• Finance & Banking • M&A • Turnarounds  
• Organic Growth • Government Relations  
• Workforce Development • Capital Markets  
• Education • Natural Resources Agriculture  
• Energy: oil, gas, nuclear, batteries, wind, & other carbon abatements

### Vice Regal Honours

- AM (Member of the Order of Australia) citation: "for significant service to Australia – United States relations, and to philanthropy".  
**June 2019**
- OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) citation: "for service to the Superannuation and Funds Management industries and as a supporter of charitable and educational institutions".  
**January 2009**

### Professional Experience

- 2000-present • **Founder and Chairman, Principals Funds Management**
  - Founded Firm to provide global economic analysis and advice to U.S., European, Asian, and Australian money management companies, including: investment and manager selection, enterprise and human capital risk management, and board governance. In 2023, pivoted to strategic global partnerships.
  - As Chair, identified and secured seven (each in excess of \$1B) mandates for new clients and overall sourced more than \$18B mandates from corporate superannuation funds, insurance companies, and government employee retirement and super funds.
- 2024-present • **Advisory Board Member, EC POHL & Co. Private Wealth**
- 2024-present • **Special Strategic Counsel to the Chair & EIG**

EIG is a leading institutional investor in the global energy and infrastructure sectors with \$23.0 billion under management as of 31 March 2025. EIG specializes in private investments in energy and energy-related infrastructure on a global basis. During its 43-year history, EIG has committed over \$50.1 billion to the energy sector through 418 projects or companies in 44 countries on six continents. EIG's clients include many of the leading pension plans, insurance companies, endowments, foundations and sovereign wealth funds in the U.S., Asia, and Europe. EIG is headquartered in Washington, D.C. with offices in Houston, London, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro, Hong Kong, and Seoul. (source: <https://eigpartners.com/about-us/>).
- 2024-present • **Vice Chair, Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC)**
  - In November 2024, Charles was elected to the role of Vice Chair of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) by 30 delegates from member countries. Additionally, he became one of five Corporate Sustainable Members, others are from Brazil, Greece, Portugal, and U.S. Charles has been a Member of the Board of Trustees of the GFCC since 2018. [www.thegfcc.org](http://www.thegfcc.org)
- 2021-2024 • **Board Member, Clean Energy Regulator (Australian Federal Government)**
- 2018-present • **Chair, and Co-Founder, Australian Advisory Board on Competitiveness**
  - Appointed by Australian Federal Government to champion new ideas to drive productivity, prosperity, and economic growth for Australia and U.S. [www.aabcompete.org](http://www.aabcompete.org)
  - Catalysed the U.S.-Australia Chief Technology Officer's Innovation Dialogue exploring innovation; infrastructure support; and commercialisation acceleration: participants included CSIRO, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Lawrence Livermore National Lab, the CEO and CTO of Lockheed Martin Australia, Baker Hughes Company and Deere & Company.
  - Established Bilateral Agreement with U.S. Council on Competitiveness (now GFCC); shaped organizational foci: Autonomy; Advanced Computing; Natural Resources; Healthcare and Access to Capital.
- 2003-2006 • **Inaugural Board Chair, Hyperion Asset Management**
  - Focused on listed Australian equities, Hyperion Asset Management was the first Member of the consortium that became Pinnacle Investment Management Group, an ASX-listed public global investments firm.
  - Also served as Chair, Hyperion Capital Management.
- 2001-2008 • **Non-executive Chairman, Wilson HTM Charitable Trust**
  - Selected contributions, including towards the Great Barrier Reef restoration.
- 2004-2007 • **Non-Executive Director, CHAMP Private Equity Fund II**
  - Represented all LP investors for Castle Harlan Australian Mezzanine Partners.
- 2004-2007 • **Non-Executive Director, Pacific Equity Partners**
  - Acted for pension fund investors on Australian & International Advisory Board.
- 2000-2004 • **Non-Executive Director, Lochard Company**
  - With other Directors, devised M&A and organic growth expansion strategy leading to Lochard dominating air traffic control technologies.
- 1997-2007 • **Chairman, Military Superannuation & Benefits Board No. 1**
  - Established this pension fund's office, staffing, systems, processes, policies, and engagements with the Defence Ministers and Chief of the Defence Force for all military members and veterans, growing Fund from <A\$400M to A\$2.6B. Additionally, significantly increased the number of valuable member services.

Education, Qualifications  
and Memberships

- The Scots College Sydney (Prefect, colours Cricket, served as Army Cadet Under Officer and achieved awards in Debating and Citizenship).
- Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales ('B. Comm UNSW').
- Harvard Business School Corporate Financial Management Program and Advanced Leadership Program.
- Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors ('FAICD').
- Fellow of the Australian Institute of Chartered Accountants ('FAICA').
- Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australasia ('FINSIA').
- Member of Melbourne Club; Royal Sydney Golf Club; Royal Melbourne Golf Club; Flinders Golf Club; VRC (Victorian Racing Club); Marylebone Cricket Club (LORDS UK); Sydney Swans Football Club; and The Waterloo Association (UK).
- Honorary Board Member, Foundation Board, Geelong Grammar School.
- Member of The Cook Society.
- Member of Robert Menzies Institute.

Worthy Mentions

- Member of the Alliance for Responsible Citizenship (ARC) Ambassador's Circle.
- Honorary Chairman of Area Finance for The Liberal Party (Victoria) for the Federal Electorate of Flinders with the Hon. Greg Hunt MP (2001 – 2022).
- Honorary Chairman of Area Finance for The Liberal Party (Victoria) for the Federal Electorate of Flinders with The Hon. Peter Reith MP (1995 – 2001).
- Advisory Board Director; The Editor's Circle, Econvue, LLC (Chicago, IL, U.S.), a global consortium of economic, geopolitical experts from wide range of specialties discussing trending issues with +20 million active subscribers.

Early Career

ANZ Investment Group

As Managing Director/Executive Director, directed large corporate privatization transactions, ESOPs, IPOs, and commercialisations.

- Led team advising largest ESOP (>98,000 employees) of its kind in AU at that time.
- Oversaw team in preparation of the privatization in an IPO of Qantas Airways.
- Led team advising The Port of Brisbane in its bid to purchase, and successfully acquire in consortium, the privatising of the Brisbane International Airport.
- Ran team advising Pacific Gas & Electric Company (USA) in bid to purchase State of Victoria Electricity.

Lazard Brothers London; Lazard Frere New York

Fostered contacts for both offices in a strategic alliance with ORD MINNETT.

PwC (fka Coopers & Lybrand) London & Milan

Served both offices in corporate finance and intellectual property matters.

Community Engagement

Founding Member, National Committee,  
Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Trust

Non-Executive Board Director, The Menzies Foundation

The Foundation is a non-partisan memorial honoring Sir Robert G. Menzies, Australia's longest serving Prime Minister.

Roles include: **Council Member** (2014 – present);

**Non-Executive Board Director** (1997 – 2014);

**Finance, Audit, and Investments Committee Chair** (2004 – 2014).

- With other Directors, decided appropriate memorials and funding strategy, being a catalyst for medical research and public policy institutes.
- Granted scholarships and awards to distinguished individuals exhibiting leadership potential in the medical, legal, and other sectors.

2006-present

Inaugural & Continuous Environmental Impact Supporter,  
The Darwin Challenge

Charles Darwin's great grandson's nonprofit to help humanity reduce 21st Century emissions.

2008-present

Inaugural & Continuous Innovation Supporter, Flinders Art Show

Flinders Art Show is a community endeavor for Mornington Peninsula artists to enhance viability.

2010-present

Founding & Current Supporter, Peninsula Summer Music Festival

The Festival is an award-nominated, critically acclaimed for Victorian arts music.

2012-present

Repurposing Supporter, SecondBite

SecondBite is Australia's largest free food rescue and transport to those in need in every Australian state and territory.

2016-present

Education & Community Engagement Programs Support,  
Van Diemen's Band

Van Diemen's Band is "Australia's Baroque Supergroup" that transforms historically based music.

2018-present

Healthcare Charity Supporter, St. Vincent's Hospital Health Australia

Since 1857, St. Vincent runs 10+ hospitals, 20+ elder & research centers.

2018-present

Program Supporter, Barnardos Australia

Arnardos is a children's charity for over 100 years that provides needed support.

2023

Printing Underwriter of Burwood Cricket Club's history publication

2024+

Annual Sponsor 'in-perpetuity,' The Scots College (Sydney)  
"The Charles Peter Hunt Kiefel AM Prize for Excellence, Leadership,  
& Loyalty

2025

Established the Charles Peter Hunt Kiefel AM scholarship  
endowment (in modern Australian history and STEM).