



Kate Gaffney
Associate Director

A co-founder of Tennant Burnett Corporate Advisory, Kate enjoyed a diverse and accomplished career in Higher Education teaching and research before moving to investment banking and corporate advisory.

Commencing her academic career at The University of Melbourne with PhD research into the regulatory failures and cultural factors which enabled historical institutional child abuse, Kate worked as a lecturer and researcher in criminology at the University of Melbourne before moving to Monash University where she redeveloped the criminology curriculum and taught subjects across two campuses. Following this and with a desire to enhance access to education, Kate broadened her repertoire to include teaching and curriculum development in pathways programmes at Monash and Federation Universities. At Federation University she worked in the heart of the Latrobe Valley where she witnessed the transition to the post-coal economy and the role business and education can play in supporting regional communities in the transition to renewable energy economies.

In 2021 Kate completed the Global Executive MBA at [Monash University](#) where she held a Women in Leadership Scholarship, with an emphasis on governance, innovation, global strategy, design thinking and leadership. During the Global Executive MBA Kate completed several consulting projects across global advanced manufacturing in the hydrogen economy, life sciences in agriculture, and renewable energy use in Australian mining, as well as working with female founders in adult education and workplace skills training. It was these consulting projects in particular which provided an opportunity to apply decades of academic and communication skills to cutting-edge real-world challenges in business and which provided the impetus to turn her talents to business.

Since commencing her career in investment banking and corporate advisory. Kate has worked with clients across funds management, renewable energy, medical devices, health services, and regional tourism. She retains a special interest in working with female founders and with innovators from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds to enhance access to business development opportunities and capital for entrepreneurs who might otherwise be under-represented.



Kate brings highly developed communication skills and the ability to analyse and synthesise complex concepts and communicate these to a variety of audiences. She has presented to Government, national print and electronic media, international conferences, as well as to many thousands of students and has acted as an expert witness in litigation against the State. She brings critical thinking, curiosity and communication skills to her work with clients.

Kate holds a Bachelor of Arts, a Graduate Diploma of Arts and a Master of Arts from Monash University each with specialisations in history. She also holds a Graduate Certificate in Education (Tertiary Education) from Federation University and a Global Executive MBA from Monash University. She is a member of the [Australian Institute of Company Directors](#) and a graduate of the AICD Foundations of Directorship Course. Continuing her dedication to ensuring social sustainability outcomes through enhanced access to education, Kate is a Director of the Victorian Government [Adult, Community and Further Education Board](#). Kate previously served as a member of the Gippsland Regional Council of the [Adult, Community and Further Education](#) Board and held a Cadetship on the Board of [Community College Gippsland](#).