

INTRODUCTION

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
FOR HOME ECONOMICS

Associate Professor Dr. Donna PENDERGAST is a home economist. She is passionate about the field. She is employed as Program Director in the School of Education at The University of Queensland. She has worked in a range of educational settings, including secondary schools, technical Colleges and Universities. She has been a home economics teacher and professional educator for many years. Donna's Masters and Doctoral studies were both home economics philosophical projects utilising post-modern theoretical approaches. Donna has a strong research background, having been involved in national and international collaborative research ventures. She has served on significant government committees, including the *Family and Community Services Stronger Families State Advisory Board*, where she was involved in the allocation of AUD\$320 million of federal government community grants. Donna has made a significant contribution to the profession of home economics, having been President of the peak national body, the Home Economics Institute of Australia; President of the Queensland Division of the Home Economics Institute of Australia; Editor of the Journal of the Home Economics Institute of Australia for a decade, along with roles as professional development coordinator and national secretary. Donna has received leadership awards from the Home Economics Institute of Australia in acknowledgment of her contributions to the field.



Donna is currently the Executive Member for the Pacific Region of the International Federation of Home Economics, and Chair of the Think Tank committee which recently finalised the Position Paper, *Home Economics in the 21st Century*. Donna has also served as the convenor of the program development committee for this World Congress. Donna has published widely in the areas of home economics education and philosophy, including her book, *Virginal Mothers, Groovy Chicks and Blokey Blokes: Re-thinking Home Economics (and) Teaching Bodies*. In 2005 she authored a book on middle schooling that is widely used in teacher education programs around Australia, and in 2007 published the book, *The Millennial Adolescent*, which explores the traits of the Y generation and addresses the challenge of making education relevant for these young people. She has also published about home economics and generational theory. Donna has presented a string of invitational international keynote addresses, and many conference papers around the world, each with a global perspective on the field of home economics.

Most recently, Donna's keynote addresses have focussed on her belief that home economics is at a convergent moment, with several key factors merging together, making this a period of incredible importance and even greater opportunity.