Order of Australia recipient, Professor Lea Waters AM, PhD, is an Organisational Psychologist, consultant, author and speaker. Professor Waters is the Founding Director of the Centre for Positive Psychology (now the Centre for Wellbeing Science) at the University of Melbourne, where she has held an academic position for two and a half decades and has published 110+ scientific articles. Lea holds an affiliate position with the Center for Positive Organizations, University of Michigan and is on the Science Board of the Greater Good Science Center at UC Berkeley.

Lea has consulted to a wide range of organisations across many sectors including finance, business, retail, Federal Government, local Government, charity, health care, tourism, transport, sport and education. Clients include Google, Black Rock Investment Managers, Merrill Lynch, Lander and Rogers Lawyers, Australian Taxation Office, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Tourism Fiji, Myer, Target, Metrorail, the Australian Human Resources Institute, Melbourne Transport Infrastructure Authority, Cobalt Design, Athletics Victoria, Maroondah City Council, Manningham City Council, the Australian Psychological Society and more.

Lea has written for The Wall Street Journal, TIME.com, The Atlantic, and The Guardian and her work is featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Toronto Globe, Huffington Post, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, Vogue, ELLE Magazine and more. Her TEDx talk, 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 190,000 times.

Lea’s acclaimed parenting book, ‘The Strength Switch’, was the top release on Amazon in the parenting category, listed among the Top Reads by UC Berkeley’s Greater Good Science Center and one of the Top Five Books for Parents and Children in the UK’s Top Five site. It has been published in 10 languages including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, Hungarian, Arabic, Spanish, French and Russian.

In 2015, Professor Waters was listed as one of Australia’s Top 100 Women of Influence by the Financial Review. In 2017 she was listed in the Who’s Who of Australian Women. In 2020, Lea was honoured by the Governor General of Australia and named a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), one of the highest civilian honours in Australia, for her leadership in psychology, education and the mental health sector in Australia.

Lea is a Past President of the International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA) (2017-2019) and is the Patron for Flourishing Education Japan and the Ambassador for the Positive Education Schools Association.
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