

# Frank Lampard OAM and Lawrence Lampard

Francis Henry “Frank” Lampard was born on 26 November 1946 at the Point McLeay Aboriginal Mission (Raukkan) Hospital. He was the fourth of twelve children – six brothers and five sisters - of Henry Lampard and Evelyn Isabelle Lampard (née Rigney). The children were of both Ngarrindjeri and Kaurna descent. The first few years of Frank’s life were spent at Point McLeay, and his brother Lawrence Murray – known to the family as Lawrie - was born there on 28 April 1948.

Henry and Evelyn decided to leave the mission around 1951. Henry found work as a railway worker in the Murray Mallee, and this meant most of Frank and Lawrie’s primary school years were spent at Lameroo and Karoonda Area Schools, with the family living at railway sidings like Mulpata and Yurgo. Henry supplemented his meagre income from his work as a fettler on the railways with rabbiting, which also provided food for the family. He also did bag sowing during harvest time on nearby farms. At the same time, Evelyn kept herself incredibly busy caring for and bringing up their children. Evelyn did not adjust very well to life in the Murray Mallee and missed her parents, siblings and mission life in general.

Sadly, this eventually took an awful toll on Henry and Evelyn’s relationship which resulted in them agreeing to separate. Frank was going on 13, and Lawrie about 10, when the family breakdown began. Both boys, along with other siblings, were taken away from their parents by government officials and placed initially in separate children’s homes or fostered out to several families in different locations across the state, including the southeast, Adelaide Hills and in Adelaide itself. During this period Lawrie attended Lefevre Primary School, then Mount Barker High and Croydon Technical High School. Frank went to Lefevre Boys Technical High School and later Oakbank Area School.

Whilst at various schools Frank and Lawrie had managed to make their mark in different ways. Neither boy was very academically inclined, but Frank managed to become head prefect, chair of the student body, and captain of his school’s interschool athletics, football and cricket teams. Oakbank Area School has named one of its buildings after Frank.

They both excelled in athletics, cricket and football, and sometimes competed and played against one another in interschool competitions. Lawrie was the better athlete and often bested Frank in competition. Frank was the better footballer and played A grade football for the Bridgewater Football Club from 1963 and was a member of that year’s premiership side. The following year he played inter-association football and in two games in 1964 against other associations he was awarded his side’s best on ground award. He was also awarded the Mail Medal that year in the Hills Central Football Association.

Sadly, for both boys, of all the games they played and competitions they entered, their parents only ever attended once, and this was the saddest aspect of their sporting lives. On reflection, both boys thought that their mother would have barracked like crazy for them while their father would have motivated and inspired them to be the

best they could be. Both boys also credit their father for their strong work ethic. Due to the frequent moves between children's homes and foster homes, the siblings often lost contact with one another.

Meanwhile, Lawrie left Croydon Technical High School in November 1964, and worked as a labourer on the railways and in demolition until late 1967. Frank had won a scholarship and trained as a primary school teacher, and after he completed his teacher's certificate, he was called up for national service with the Army in late 1966. He completed recruit training at Puckapunyal in Victoria and was allocated to the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps. He completed corps training as a medical assistant mostly under canvas at Healesville in Victoria in 1967 and was posted to Central Army Medical Records in Albert Park in Melbourne for the remainder of his national service obligation which concluded in 1969.

Frank believes that Lawrie was probably following in his footsteps when he voluntarily enlisted in the Australian Regular Army in December 1967. Following recruit and infantry training, Lawrie was posted to the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (6 RAR) in June 1968, which had begun training and preparations to deploy to South Vietnam the following year.

The battalion deployed to South Vietnam in May 1969 and took on two New Zealand rifle companies on arrival, becoming 6 RAR/NZ. Lawrie was posted to Medical Platoon as a stretcher bearer, and was attached to 10 Platoon, Delta Company. During its time in South Vietnam, the battalion undertook nine major operations and 10 Platoon was involved in several successful ambushes and major contacts with the Viet Cong. Three members of 10 Platoon were killed during the tour, with more than half-a-dozen wounded, many of whom Lawrie would have treated prior to medical evacuation. The battalion flew back to Australia in mid-May 1970. Lawrie's patchy disciplinary record caught up with him on return to Australia, and he was discharged from the army in September 1970. For his service in South Vietnam, Lawrie was issued with the Vietnam Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal. He was also entitled to wear the Infantry Combat Badge. After Lawrie returned from Vietnam, he and Frank were turned away from an RSL in Adelaide, and neither of them ever forgot it. Lawrie struggled with the effects of his service in Vietnam, and died in tragic circumstances on 21 December 1972, aged 24. After his death, he became eligible to be issued the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 with clasp "Vietnam".



**Lawrie Lampard**  
(Lampard family)

Frank enjoyed his time in the Army. He initially had difficulty settling back into civilian life, but soon got back into teaching. He met and married Sandra and together they brought up their wonderful children, Frank's stepdaughter Samantha and their son Justin. After a couple of decades of teaching, Frank moved into the broader public service and held several senior roles in management and administration, including a brief period acting as Chief Executive of the State Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Frank has also served in leadership and director roles with many organisations and committees, including the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, Aboriginal Prisoners and Offenders Support Services, the South Australian Aboriginal Training Advisory Committee, National Aboriginal Education Consultative Committee, the University of Adelaide Council, the Northern Adelaide Local Health Network Governing Council and the South Australian Museum Advisory Committee, among others.

In 2001, Frank was awarded the Centenary Medal for his service to the public sector as the Chair of the South Australian Aboriginal Training Advisory Committee. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours, for his service to the Indigenous community through public sector roles, particularly in the field of education, and as a contributor to social welfare policy development. The following year he was NAIDOC Australia Male Elder of the Year. He was also a South Australian Co-Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement from 2015 to 2017.

Frank has also been very active in the veteran community. He was the deputy chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial (ATSIWM) Committee from 2006 until the Memorial was dedicated by the Governor-General, Her

Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO in November 2013. Since 2015, Frank has been co-chair of Aboriginal Veterans SA, a committee which grew out of the ATSIWM committee and continues to promote greater recognition of Aboriginal service. From 2019 to 2022, Frank was a member of the South Australian Veterans' Advisory Council.



**Frank (centre) with Aboriginal students from Rostrevor College  
at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial  
(Defence Image Gallery)**

Sadly, in 2020 Frank and Sandra's son Justin passed away. Frank and Sandra are proud grandparents to Samantha's children Keegan, Liam and Layne, and Justin's son Jarell. In 2021, Lawrie's unmarked grave at West Terrace Cemetery, Adelaide, was marked and dedicated by Aboriginal Veterans SA. Frank and Lawrie's names are inscribed on the path of the ATSIWM.