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Mark has a first-class Honours degree in Economics from the University of Adelaide and began his working career as a graduate economist with the Australian Public Service. He won a Commonwealth Scholarship which enabled him to study at the University of Warwick and obtain a Master of Arts in Industrial Relations. He was appointed head of research on employment relations for the UK Government in the late 1990s, where he ran what was the world's largest survey of working life, the results of which were published as *Britain at Work*.

Mark returned to Australia in 1999 to join the National Institute of Labour Studies as Deputy Director, and was then General Manager at the National Centre for Vocational Education Research for six years, running its statistical then research operations.

He was a speaker at the inaugural Adelaide Festival of Ideas in 1999 and chaired the advisory committee which prepares the Festival program from 2003 to 2007. Mark is the author of two books, and numerous articles and papers.