Dr Hurren's key areas of research are the development of protective and performance textiles and a circular approach to sustainable textiles. He specializes in the measurement and development of protective textile structures for motorcycle apparel. His laboratory at the Waurn Ponds Campus of Deakin University is set up for the design and evaluation of new protective motorcycle clothing. He led the team that developed the Motorcycle Clothing Assessment Program (MotoCAP) that was introduced in Australia and New Zealand in 2018. He has authored or co-authored 90 papers and is named on 15 patents. Dr Hurren spent eight years in industry as a textile colourist and fabric finisher and has a strong understanding of the textile manufacturing chain. He has significant knowledge and experience in the testing of textiles and has contributed to two book chapters on this topic. He has peer reviews papers for Textile Research Journal, Journal of Textile Institute, Journal of Industrial Textiles and Fibres and Polymers.

Dr Hurren has been a Sunny Scholar at Wuhan Textile University since 2012. He has four PhD students under joint supervision with Professor Xu Weilin of Wuhan Textile University. He is also a visiting scholar at Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology since 2019 working with Professor Liu Li on the Winter Olympic Clothing for the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.