

MS PRUDENCE JANE GOWARD

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Business (*honoris causa*)

Pru Goward is the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner, a journalist, political affairs commentator and advocate for women's rights.

Pru Goward was born in 1952 in Adelaide and was educated at Woodlands Church of England Girls Grammar School. She graduated with a degree in Economics (Honours) from Flinders University while employed as a high school teacher, and later tutored in economics at the University while conducting research for her Masters degree. A former part-time lecturer in Broadcast Journalism with Canberra University, Ms Goward worked with ABC Television and Radio for 19 years as a journalist and political reporter and commentator covering current affairs. Ms Goward also wrote extensively for newspapers and magazines on a freelance basis during her time with the ABC, she has interviewed every living Australian Prime Minister, and reported on and analysed social and political change in Australia for a generation. Ms Goward has also worked as a media consultant, running her own media management company, and in 1983 she was awarded the Walkley Award for a television profile on colourful racing identity George Freeman.

Ms Goward has worked closely on issues of women's rights for several years. She held the position of Executive Director of the Office of the Status of Women (OSW) in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet from 1997 - 1999, serving a number of ministers as well as the Prime Minister. During that time the Office became responsible for a \$50 million Domestic Violence Prevention Program – the first national program for the prevention of domestic violence, and the largest program run by the OSW - and advised the Government on the fairer division of superannuation assets for divorcing couples.

In 2000 she was appointed Commonwealth Spokesperson during the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games and was responsible for developing Olympic and Paralympic media strategies for all Commonwealth agencies. She was responsible for coordinating and promoting the Games - including promoting the Commonwealth's role, dealing with media coverage of security arrangements and a myriad of issues raised during the staging of the Games in Australia.

Ms Goward was appointed as the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner for a five year period in July 2001. Prior to taking up the role, she was National Director of the Australian Property Institute. Following the introduction of the *Age Discrimination Act* in 2004, Ms Goward was also appointed Commissioner Responsible for Age Discrimination. In this role the Commissioner undertakes educational activities to promote the law which aims to reduce barriers faced by younger and mature age people in public areas of life.

In 2004 Ms Goward was nominated by *The Australian* as one of the most forty influential Australians and by *The Australian Financial Review* as one of the country's top cultural and industrial relations influencers. Her speeches have been reproduced in published collections – her topics include *The Media and Politics*, *The History of Government and the Role of Human Rights*, *A Changing Australia - the Story of Social and Economic Change in Australia*, *What the Future Holds and the*

Challenges Ahead, How Women Succeed in Business, Leadership - What's Hot and What's Not, The Story of Work /Life Balance, Ageing and Your Industry and Lobbying for a Good Cause. She is also a consummate hypothetical facilitator.

In 2001 she was awarded a Centenary Medal for her services to journalism and women's rights. Ms Goward is the author of *A Business of Your Own: How Women Succeed in Business* (2001), a study of success strategies for women in business; and has co-authored a biography of Prime Minister John Howard with her husband, David Barnett.

Memberships

- Member, Board of the John Curtin School for Medical Research
- Member, Board of the Neuroscience Institute for Schizophrenia and Allied Disorders
- Member, Council of Australian Arab Relations
- Official patron, Australian National University Australian Rules Football Club
- Patron, Flair
- Patron, Good Beginnings
- Patron, Anglicare

Dated This Twenty Sixth Day of April Two Thousand and Seven