**Citation – Elizabeth Koff AM**

Tuesday, 9 May 2023 – 2.30pm

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Elizabeth Koff AM to you for admission to the degree Doctor of Health Sciences (honoris causa) in recognition of her exceptional service to healthcare and significant role in shaping and guiding the future of health in NSW and across the nation.

Following completion of a Master of Public Health at Monash University in 1994, Elizabeth embarked on a celebrated career within NSW Health, taking on various roles including Director of Health Service Development for South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service and founding Director of Population Health, Planning and Performance for South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service. In 2007, she was appointed Director of Clinical Operations for South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Health Service, which involved the management of 21 hospitals and 14,000 employees. Then in 2010, she became Chief Executive of the Sydney Children's Hospital Network (SCHN), which combines the Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick and The Children's Hospital at Westmead as a single entity and is the largest paediatric facility in New South Wales.

In 2016, Elizabeth was appointed Secretary of Health for New South Wales. In this role, she was responsible for the management of the NSW health system, the largest health system in Australia, with a $30 billion budget and 124,000 full-time employees. During this time, Elizabeth oversaw several key initiatives and changes across the NSW Health system including the NSW governments response to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the pandemic, she was a key advisor to the NSW crisis cabinet on the management of COVID-19 in NSW and the subsequent vaccine roll-out.

Elizabeth's other accomplishments as Secretary for NSW Health include the development and implementation of value-based healthcare across the state; overseeing an eHealth transformation, with data and analytics reform to drive clinical care improvements and business intelligence and a $2 billion per year infrastructure program. Under her leadership, the NSW Ministry of Health emerged from the global pandemic as an organisation better able to face the technical and social challenges of the future, and better able to serve the health needs of the people of NSW.

In April 2022, after six years as Secretary for NSW Health, Elizabeth was appointed Managing Director of Telstra Health. In this role, she continues to champion digitalising and integrating health systems to improve patient outcomes.

In addition to her roles in health, Elizabeth is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Technology Sydney, a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Previously she was the NSW President of the Institute of Public Administration Australia, and Chair of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and its subsequent iteration of Health Chief Executives Forum.

Elizabeth is committed to the advancement of women in business, particularly in leadership positions within the health sector. To further her aims in this area, she is a member of the Champions of Change Health group, established in 2019. This group represents industry leaders from the public and private health sectors committed to significantly increasing the representation of women in high-pay, high-growth areas. She is also a member of Chief Executive Women. Elizabeth provides advice to tomorrow's female leaders to encourage the development of interpersonal skills along with technical proficiency.

In the Queens Birthday 2022 Honours list, Elizabeth was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of significant service to public health administration and governance.

Chancellor, I present Elizabeth Koff AM for admission to the degree of Doctor of Health Sciences (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the degree upon her.