

Ms Elizabeth Broderick

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Elizabeth Broderick by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM, at a special honorary award ceremony in celebration of women's leadership at 5.00pm on 1 November 2014.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Elizabeth Broderick to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*).

Throughout her distinguished career, Elizabeth Broderick has made an exceptional contribution to professional, legal and business practice, to broader human rights issues and to the promotion of equality between men and women in Australia.

Elizabeth Broderick completed her university studies in computing and law, before going on to become a partner in the prominent law firm Blake Dawson (now Ashurst). She was so successful at designing, promoting and modelling flexible workplace standards that the firm endorsed these standards as a 'best practice' workplace system.

While at Blake Dawson, Elizabeth Broderick led the firm's involvement in the 'Lawyers Encouraging and Assisting Promising Students' program. This initiative is designed to give students the confidence to develop study skills, ethical practice and aid career progression, through workplace-based learning and mentoring. Drawing on her experience in information technology, she headed the Legal Technology Group and developed extensive practical expertise in the application of technology to legal practice and the delivery of legal services in Australia and internationally.

In 2001, Elizabeth Broderick was named Telstra's New South Wales Business Woman of the Year and also received the Telstra Australian Business Woman of the Year Award. At the time, she was the forerunner in a mentoring initiative known as the Lucy Program, which has now been adopted by many universities in New South Wales. The program aims to equip women with the advice, networks and experience they need to be effective leaders and take on senior positions in the private and public sectors.

In 2003, Elizabeth Broderick received a Centenary Medal for Service to Australian Society through Business Leadership. In September 2007, she was appointed for a five-year term as Sex Discrimination Commissioner. The term has been extended to September 2015.

From September 2007 until July 2011 she was also the commissioner responsible for Age Discrimination. During her term, she has been committed to improving gender equality through her advocacy in preventing violence against women and sexual harassment, improving lifetime economic security for women, balancing paid work and unpaid caring responsibilities, promoting women's representation in leadership, and strengthening gender equality laws and agencies.

Elizabeth Broderick has been a key advocate for Australia's national paid parental leave scheme and domestic violence reform. She championed the changes to the ASX Corporate Governance Principles to increase the number of women at decision-making level, developed the Male Champions of Change strategy, and worked with the Australian Government to strengthen gender equality laws and agencies.

In April 2011, Elizabeth Broderick was appointed to lead the Australian Human Rights Commission's Review into the Treatment of Women at the Australian Defence Force Academy. Four reports on the review were tabled in Australia's Parliament and the review concluded in March 2014. She now leads the commission's collaborative work with the Australian Defence Force on embedding cultural change in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

Elizabeth Broderick is Global Co-Chair of the Women's Empowerment Principles Leadership Group, a joint initiative of the United Nations Global Compact and United Nations Women; a member of the World Bank's Advisory Council on Gender and Development, a member of the Australian Defence Force Gender Equality Advisory Board, and Supply Nation. She is also an ambassador for the Foundation to Prevent Violence against Women and their Children.

Elizabeth Broderick has been committed to improving gender equality through her advocacy in preventing violence against women and sexual harassment, improving lifetime economic security for

women, balancing paid work and unpaid caring responsibilities, promoting women's representation in leadership and strengthening gender equality laws.

Chancellor, I present Elizabeth Broderick to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon her.