

## Julia Gillard citation

Monday 29 April 2019, 2.00pm

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Julia Eileen Gillard.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) is being awarded to the Honourable Julia Gillard, AC, in acknowledgement of her exceptionally distinguished service to Australian society and to the University.

Ms Gillard was born in Barry, Wales, in 1961 and migrated with her family to Adelaide in 1966. She attended Mitcham Demonstration School and Unley High School. Ms Gillard was a student of the University of Adelaide and then the University of Melbourne, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in 1986 and a Bachelor of Arts in 1989.

During her time as a university student, Ms Gillard worked with the Australian Union of Students and was president from 1983 to 1984.

In 1987, Ms Gillard joined the law firm Slater & Gordon, and became a partner of the firm in 1990, specialising in industrial law.

In 1996, Ms Gillard became chief of staff to the leader of the Labor Party in Victoria, Mr John Brumby, and subsequently entered politics.

Ms Gillard was first elected to Australia's House of Representatives at the 1998 election, becoming the member for the seat of Lalor. Following the 2001 election, she joined the Shadow Cabinet, and after Labor Party's victory at the 2007 election, Ms Gillard became Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. At that time, she was made Minister for Education, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, and Minister for Social Inclusion.

On 24 June 2010, Ms Gillard was elected by her party to become the 27th Prime Minister of Australia. She is the first woman to serve as Deputy Prime Minister, and the first woman Prime Minister of this country.

As Prime Minister, Ms Gillard played a central role to the successful management of the Australian economy, the 12th biggest economy in the world. Her success on this front is even more noteworthy as it coincided with the Global Financial Crisis. Ms Gillard helped to position Australia to seize the benefits of the rise of Asia, developing the nation's guiding paper, *Australia in the Asian Century*. Ms Gillard developed nation-changing policies, including reforming education at every level, from early childhood to university.

Under her Prime Ministership, Australia created an emissions trading scheme, improved the provision and sustainability of health, dental and aged care, commenced the nation's first national scheme to care for people with disabilities, restructured the telecommunications sector, and built the National Broadband Network.

In foreign policy, Ms Gillard strengthened Australia's alliance with the United States, further developed the relationship with China and India, and deepened the relationship with Japan, Indonesia and South Korea. Ms Gillard has represented Australia at the G20 – including winning the right for Australia to host the 2014 meeting – the East Asia Summit, APEC, NATO's International Security Assistance Force, and chaired the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. Under Ms Gillard's leadership, Australia was elected to serve on the United Nations Security Council.

Ms Gillard retired from politics on 5 August 2013.

In September 2013, the University of Adelaide announced that Ms Gillard had accepted the title of Honorary Visiting Professor, to contribute to the fields of History and Politics within the University's Faculty of Arts. Since then, she has made direct and ongoing contributions to student education at the University, and has given a series of lectures to the University community.

Ms Gillard is a Distinguished Fellow with the Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institute in Washington. In 2014, she was appointed chair of the Global Partnership for Education, a leading organisation dedicated to expanding access and quality education worldwide. Ms Gillard also serves as the Patron of Camfed, the Campaign for Female Education, which tackles poverty and inequality by supporting girls' education, and empowering young women to become leaders.

In 2017, Ms Gillard became chair of Beyond Blue, Australia's leading mental health awareness body. In 2018, she was appointed the Inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at King's College, London.

Ms Gillard is also Patron of the John Curtin Prime Ministerial Library in Perth, Western Australia, and Patron of the Layne Beachley Aim For The Stars Foundation, which supports girls and women to fulfil their potential.

In 2013, Ms Gillard received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Adelaide in recognition of her leadership and outstanding contribution in the field of Public Service.

On Australia Day 2017, Ms Gillard was awarded a Companion of the Order of Australia, for "eminent service to the Parliament of Australia, particularly as Prime Minister, through seminal contributions to economic and social development, particularly policy reform in the areas of education, disability care, workplace relations, health, foreign affairs and the environment, and as a role model to women".

Chancellor, I am very pleased and proud to present to you the Honourable Julia Eileen Gillard, Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Arts, Companion of the Order of Australia, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).