

Dr Martin Parkinson PSM

Citation for conferral of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) Ceremony 14, Wednesday 6 May 2015, 11:00am

Chancellor, I present to you Martin Parkinson.

Martin Parkinson graduated from the University of Adelaide with an Honours degree in Economics in 1980.

He joined Treasury in 1980 before undertaking a PhD degree at Princeton, where he graduated in 1990. When he returned to Australia, Dr Parkinson was appointed senior adviser to John Dawkins, who was then Treasurer.

By 2001, he had risen to the post of Deputy Secretary to the Treasury, with responsibility for domestic and international macroeconomic issues.

In 2007, Dr Parkinson became Deputy Secretary in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, where he headed the Climate Change Group and was responsible for leading and coordinating climate change policy, including planning the implementation of the then-proposed emissions trading scheme.

Dr Parkinson became Secretary of the Department of Climate Change upon its establishment on 3 December 2007. As Secretary of the Department of Climate Change (and, subsequently, the Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency), he established a new department with policy development, program design and management, service delivery and regulatory responsibilities, contributed to the development of Australia's climate change policies and led engagement with business and community groups.

Dr Parkinson then served as Secretary to the Treasury from 7 March 2011 to 12 December 2015.

As Secretary, he was a member of the Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia, Chair of the Advisory Board of the Australian Office of Financial Management, member of the Board of Taxation, Infrastructure Australia, Council of Financial Regulators and the Centre for International Finance and Regulation.

Dr Parkinson led Treasury through significant change during his tenure. Under his leadership, the organisation undertook two important reviews. One was the Strategic Review of Treasury, which was focused on the organisation's effectiveness and capability to deliver on its mission of improving the wellbeing of the Australian people. The other was the Women in Treasury review. A particular interest of Dr Parkinson has been to promote the role of women in leadership positions in Australia. He has served as a member of the Male Champions of Change group of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

During his Treasury career, he worked in a range of areas including taxation policy, labour market and structural reform, and macroeconomic policy and forecasting. Other contributions are to the delivery of the Asian Century White Paper, the Gonski Review of Funding for Schooling, aged care reform, the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the National Broadband Network and the Prime Minister's Manufacturing Taskforce.

Dr Parkinson was Australia's G-20, IMFC and Development Committee Deputy and Co-chair of the G-20 Deputies process in 2006. He had previously worked at the International Monetary Fund on the reform of international financial architecture.

Dr Parkinson was awarded the Public Service Medal on 26 January 2008, in recognition of his "outstanding public service as a key contributor to the 2007 Report of the Task Group on Emissions Trading and, more broadly, to Australia's economic and financial relations."

In 2010, Dr Parkinson was inducted into the ANU College of Business and Economics Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame for his contributions to public policy. He also received the inaugural ANU Alumnus of the Year Award in 2013.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, Dr Martin Parkinson, Bachelor of Economics (Honours), Master of Economics, Doctor of Philosophy, Public Service Medal, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).