

Julie Bishop citation

Wednesday 3rd of May 2017

11:00am – Faculty of the Professions

Chancellor, I am very pleased and proud to present to you Julie Isabel Bishop.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University is being awarded today to the Honourable Julie Bishop in recognition of her exceptional contribution over the past 18 years to Australian politics, currently serving as Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and, since 2007, as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party.

In her role as Minister for Foreign Affairs she has won considerable praise and admiration for her diplomatic and sensitive handling of a number of issues of vital importance to Australia and its citizens in their safety and security. She has also played a key role in advancing international opportunities for students at this and other universities, under the New Colombo Plan.

Julie Bishop was born in Lobethal, South Australia and was educated at St Peter's Collegiate Girls' School before studying Law at the University of Adelaide. She graduated from this University with a Bachelor of Laws in 1979. Ms Bishop later attended Harvard Business School in Boston, completing the Advanced Management Program for Senior Managers.

Ms Bishop began her career in an Adelaide law firm, becoming a partner at just 26. In 1983, she moved to Perth, practising as a commercial litigation lawyer at Clayton Utz before becoming a partner in 1985 and managing partner in 1994.

Ms Bishop entered politics in 1998 as Liberal Member for Curtin in Western Australia. She has served the nation as Minister for Foreign Affairs; Minister for Ageing; the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues; Minister for Education, Sciences and Training; and, in Opposition, as Shadow Minister for Employment, Business and Workplace Relations; Shadow Treasurer; Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Shadow Minister for Trade; as well as Deputy Leader of the Opposition between 2007 and 2013. Ms Bishop made history when she was sworn in as Australia's first female Minister for Foreign Affairs in 2013.

Ms Bishop has played key diplomatic roles in several significant world events over the last few years. She was lauded for her role on the United Nations Security Council during the 2014 ebola epidemic, which included a month as chairperson.

She was instrumental in negotiations enabling the Security Council full access to the Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 crash site in eastern Ukraine; in 2014, this work earned her a rare Commander of the Order of Merit honour from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Working with the Indonesian government, Ms Bishop also played a key role in attempts to save the lives of convicted drug smugglers Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan. She has also overseen the single largest expansion of Australia's overseas diplomatic presence in 40 years.

Ms Bishop has served as board member, director and patron of many business, cultural and sporting organisations, including: Chair of the Western Australia Town Planning Appeals Tribunal; Member of Murdoch University Senate; and the Anglican Schools Commission. She is a Director of SBS and serves on the Committee for Economic Development Australia,

as well as a number of charitable organisations, including acting as Ambassador of the Muscular Dystrophy Association in Western Australia and patron of CanTeen. She is also Director of the West Coast Eagles AFL Club – and an avid supporter.

Importantly for this University, and many others, she introduced the New Colombo Plan, which has seen thousands of students complete part of their studies in the IndoPacific.

It is therefore with great pleasure I present to you, Chancellor, the Honourable Julie Bishop, Bachelor of Laws, for conferral of the Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).