

Penny Wong citation

*Saturday 6th of May
2:00pm – Faculty of Arts*

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Penelope Ying Yen Wong.

The Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University is being awarded to Senator, the Honourable Penny Wong in recognition of her distinguished service to society as Senator for South Australia since 2002. She was a member of the Federal Cabinet during the Gillard and both Rudd Governments, and currently serves as Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, and Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Penny Wong was born in the Malaysian state of Sabah, moving to Adelaide when she was eight and educated at Scotch College. She gained a Bachelor of Arts (majoring in Jurisprudence) and Bachelor of Laws with Honours from this University, graduating in 1993, before her Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the University of South Australia.

At the University of Adelaide she became involved in the leadership of the University's Labor Club and gained a position on the National Executive of the National Union of Students. While still studying, she also worked part time as an industrial officer with the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union.

In 1995 she moved to Sydney to work as Senior Policy Adviser with the newly elected NSW Labor Government where she helped develop forest policy. She returned to Adelaide in 1996, practising law as a solicitor for three years before working as a Legal Officer with the Liquor, Hospitality and Miscellaneous Union.

Ms Wong was first elected to the Senate in 2001 – taking her seat in July 2002 – and she has been re-elected in 2007, 2013 and 2016.

During her parliamentary career, Senator Wong has served in high profile government ministerial and shadow portfolios for over a decade. Her Ministerial portfolios have included Climate Change and Water from 2007 to 2010, adding energy efficiency to that mix in 2010; and Finance and Deregulation from 2010 to 2013.

As Minister for Climate Change and Water in the Rudd Government she represented Australia in international climate change negotiations and expanded the Renewable Energy Target, which has since driven significant investment in wind and solar power. She also developed the Rudd Government's emissions trading scheme. As Finance Minister she worked with the Treasurer to deliver three federal budgets in the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis.

Ms Wong has a long record of Parliamentary committee service including many Senate Standing, Senate Legislative and General Purpose committees. She has served on the Senate Select Committees on Superannuation, and Ministerial Discretion in Migration Matters; and on Joint Statutory Committees on Corporations and Financial Services and on Intelligence and Security.

Ms Wong is a prominent spokesperson on LGBTI rights, gender equality, environmental, multicultural and economic issues, and a high-profile spokesperson nationally for the Australian Labor Party.

In government, she implemented policy to ensure that women are considered for appointments to senior positions in government agencies and corporations. She is the first

woman to hold both the positions of Leader of the Government and Leader of the Opposition in the Senate.

She continues to be a strong representative and advocate for South Australia.

Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you, for conferral of the Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*) to Senator the Honourable Penelope Ying-Yen Wong, Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws (Honours).