



An ANZSOG Institute for Governance Event

Celebrating the Contribution of Women to Public Sector Excellence

at the

National Press Club, Canberra

Opening Remarks by Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC
Governor-General of Australia



Leadership: Does Gender make a Difference?

THE FACILITATOR



VIRGINIA HAUSSEGGER

Virginia is the face of ABC TV News in Canberra. She is an award winning journalist and commentator whose extensive media career spans more than 20 years. Her work has taken her around the world reporting for Australia's leading current affairs programs: Channel 9 (*A Current Affair*), the 7 Network (*Witness*) and ABC TV (*7.30 Report*).

As a columnist and feature writer Virginia is widely published across Australian media. Her outspoken views on women and their place in contemporary society have been the source of much public debate and media commentary. Her seminal article on feminism and childlessness was ranked by *The Age* newspaper as among the most significant opinion pieces published in its 150 year history. Virginia's book *Wonder Women: the myth of 'having it all'* was launched by Julia Gillard in a live broadcast at the National Press Club. She has also written extensively on gender and social justice in Afghanistan, and is a contributor to the publication *Afghanistan and Australia's Role* (ed. Amin Saikal MUP 2011).

In 2010 Virginia received an honorary appointment as Adjunct Professor at the ANZSOG Institute for Governance, where she is working with Professor Meredith Edwards and Professor Mark Evans on a 'Talking Heads' series *Celebrating the Contribution of Women to Public Sector Excellence*.

Virginia is a Board member of UN Women Australia; President of the Canberra International Film Festival; and Patron of Save The Children ACT.

PANEL SPEAKERS



KATY GALLAGHER

Katy Gallagher was elected to the Legislative Assembly as a Labor Member for Molonglo in November 2001, and joined the Stanhope Ministry in December 2002. In the 2004 election, Katy was re-elected to the electorate of Molonglo and was elevated to Deputy Chief Minister in 2006. Katy was appointed as the third ever female Chief Minister of the ACT on Monday 16 May 2011, after the resignation of long-serving Chief Minister Jon Stanhope.

Katy is the Minister for Health, and the Minister for Industrial Relations.

Before her election, Katy worked as an organiser for the Community and Public Sector Union, representing the industrial interests of employees in the Commonwealth public sector. Prior to this, Katy worked for People First ACT, an organisation providing advocacy and support to individuals with an intellectual disability and was a project worker for Woden Community Service, in a community life skills project, working with children with disabilities

As former Treasurer she helped steer the ACT through the global financial crisis, delivering her third budget on 3 May 2011. This budget continues to provide record levels of infrastructure investment, with more than \$885m allocated in 2011/12. Under Katy's economic leadership the ACT has one of the strongest economies in the country. In her role as the Industrial Relations Minister she is working with the Commonwealth to develop a modern, harmonised OH&S system that protects workers while assisting small businesses to meet their requirements.

As Health Minister, Katy is rebuilding the health system to ensure that the ACT has the facilities and services to meet the needs of a growing and ageing city. The combined health rebuild represents the biggest ever infrastructure investment since self government.

Katy has also held previous roles in the ACT Government including Minister for Education, Minister for Children, Youth and Family Support, Minister for Community Services and Minister for Women. Katy oversaw the review and reinvigoration of child protection services for the ACT's children and young people.



WENDY MCCARTHY

Wendy McCarthy is an experienced manager and company director. She currently chairs *head-space* - Australia's National Youth Mental Health Foundation, Circus Oz, McGrath Estate Agents and Pacific Friends of the Global Fund. In 2010 she joined the board of Goodstart Childcare Limited. In 2009 after 13 years of service to Plan International, she retired from her role as Global Vice Chair. She has held many significant leadership roles in leading national bodies including eight years as deputy Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Wendy began her career as a secondary school teacher and is passionate about the power of education. For four decades she has been a teacher, educator and change agent in Australian public life. In 2005 she completed a decade as Chancellor of the University of Canberra. Her national consulting business, McCarthy Mentoring, specialises in providing mentors to major corporations, the public sector and not for profit organisations. She is the author of seven books.

In 1989 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for outstanding contributions to community affairs, women's affairs and the Bicentennial celebrations. In 2003 she was awarded a Centenary of Federation medal for business leadership and in 2005 she was nominated by the Sydney Morning Herald as one of Australia's Top 100 Public Intellectuals.

In 2011 she was featured in the IWD publication, *The Power of One* which profiled 100 women who have shaped Australia.



CHRISTINE NIXON

As former Chair of the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority, from February, 2009 to September, 2010 Christine Nixon, oversaw the largest recovery and rebuilding operation Victoria has ever undertaken. Under Christine's leadership, the Authority worked with communities, businesses, charities, local councils and other government departments to help people rebuild. She has continued her commitment to the recovery of communities affected by the bushfires since stepping down from the Authority. Christine has been the Victorian Government's Volunteer Advisor on Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery and remains a member of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund panel.

Prior to joining the Bushfire Authority, Christine was the Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police leading 14,000 staff, operating across more than 500 locations and overseeing an annual budget of \$1.7 billion. She joined Victoria Police in April 2001, after serving with the New South Wales Police from 1972, attaining the rank of Assistant Commissioner.

Christine is a Fellow of ANZSOG, The Australian Institute of Police Management, The Australian Institute of Management and The Institute of Public Administration Australia. She is also a member for the Monash University Council and the Advisory Board of the Alannah & Madeline Foundation, a patron of Onside Soccer – Victorian Soccer Federation Incorporation, Operation Newstart Victoria and Phoenix Club Inc.

Currently Christine lectures with the Australian New Zealand School of Government in various courses including leading a workshop on Women in Leadership – Achieving and Flourishing. She facilitates a leadership program with the not for profit organisation Ourcommunity.com. She also mentors and advises various organisations on leadership and organisational reform.



NATASHA STOTT DESPOJA

Natasha Stott Despoja is a former Senator for South Australia (1995-2008). She is the youngest woman ever to enter the Australian Federal Parliament. Natasha has held the positions of Australian Democrats' Leader and Deputy Leader and is the longest serving Democrat Senator in the party's history.

Natasha has made a contribution to a wide range of policy debates including as a spokesperson on higher education, science and biotechnology, Attorney-General's, privacy, women, work and family. During her political career she also introduced Private Member's Bills on issues including paid maternity leave, the Republic, genetic privacy and stem cells, and captioning.

Natasha is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow at The University of Adelaide. She writes a column for *The Adelaide Advertiser* and *The Business Spectator*.

She is a Director of *beyondblue*, the Burnet Institute, the South Australian Museum and is a member of the Advertising Standards Board, the Museum of Australian Democracy Advisory Council, the Alumni Advisory Committee of the University of Adelaide and The Big Issue's SA Advisory Committee.

On 13 June 2011, Stott Despoja was named a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the Parliament of Australia, particularly as a Senator for South Australia, through leadership roles with the Australian Democrats, to education, and as a role model for women.

Natasha is enrolled in a PhD at the University of Adelaide, and lives in Adelaide with husband Ian and their two children Conrad and Cordelia.

(photograph by Daniel Noone)

SPEAKERS INTERVIEWED



PETER LEAHY

Peter Leahy retired from the Army in July 2008 after a 37 year career as a soldier and having reached the position of the Chief of Army. His period of command was marked by the continuous global deployment of Australian soldiers on high tempo, complex and demanding combat operations. Key achievements include; expanding the combat role of women, restructuring Army Reserve, and expanding, training and sustaining the army during a period of increasing global combat operations.

In 1995, Peter was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM), and in 2002 was upgraded to Officer (AO). In the 2007 Queen's Birthday Honours list was elevated to Companion (AC).

Since leaving the Army Peter has joined the University of Canberra as a Professor and the foundation Director of the National Security Institute. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Director of Codan Pty Ltd and Electro Optic Systems. He is also a member of the Defence South Australia Advisory Board and a Director of the Kokoda Foundation.



PETER SHERGOLD

Peter Shergold is an academic and served in the Australian Public Service for two decades. He was the Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and as such was the nation's most senior public servant and a key adviser to the Prime Minister of Australia for many years.

Peter is actively involved in the non-profit sector and is Chair of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation. He was made a Member in the Order of Australia (AM) for public service on Australia Day 1996 and in 2007 received Australia's highest award, the Companion in the Order of Australia (AC).