

Michelle Grattan AO

The honorary degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon Michelle Grattan by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a special honorary award ceremony in celebration of excellence in journalism in Australia at 5.00pm on 5 August 2017.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Michelle Grattan to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

Michelle is one of Australia's most respected and awarded political journalists. She is renowned for her services to Australian journalism, particularly for her reporting as a member of the Canberra parliamentary press gallery for more than 40 years, during which time she has covered many of the most significant stories in Australian politics.

Michelle was educated in Kew, Victoria at Ruyton Girls' School. She was recruited by *The Age* newspaper in 1970 and joined the Canberra Press Gallery in 1971. In 1976, she was appointed the Chief Political Correspondent for *The Age*, a position she would hold until 1993. After leaving *The Age*, Michelle was appointed the Editor of *The Canberra Times*, becoming the first female editor of a metropolitan daily newspaper in Australia.

In 1996, she joined *The Australian Financial Review* as a senior writer, and three years later, was appointed Chief Political Correspondent at *The Sydney Morning Herald*. She returned to *The Age* in 2002 as a columnist, and was made Political Editor and Bureau Chief in 2004.

In February 2013 she announced her resignation from *The Age* to take up a position as professorial fellow at the University of Canberra's Institute for Governance and Policy Analysis. In her role at the University of Canberra, Michelle teaches, works on research projects in politics and political communication, and provides public commentary and strategic advice. She also is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Queensland's School of Journalism and Communication.

Michelle combines her academic work with her role as Chief Political Correspondent of *The Conversation*, an independent, research-focussed, not-for-profit online media outlet. Michelle also provides commentary on the ABC's Radio National.

Michelle has co-authored several books, including *Can ministers cope?: Australian federal ministers at work* (1981), *Reformers: Shaping Australian Society from the 60s to the 80s* (1989) and *Back on the Wool Track* (2004). She has edited collections such *Reconciliation* (2000) and *Australian Prime Ministers* (2010).

In 1988, Michelle Grattan was awarded the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award. In the Australia Day Honours in 2004, she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her service to journalism through commentary on politics and government, and analysis of Australian civic life. She won a Walkley Award for Journalism Leadership in 2006 and in 2008, she shared the Melbourne Press Club Lifetime Achievement Award with Laurie Oakes.

Chancellor, I present Michelle Grattan for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon her.