

## Ms Gail Patricia Kelly

Ms Kelly is recognised for her phenomenal contributions to business and the wider community. Her achievements are many and she is widely regarded as a leading figure and spokesperson for her sector in Australia and overseas. She has held numerous senior positions at major institutions that include Westpac, St George and the CBA.

*Honorary Doctor of Science in Economics.  
Conferring ceremony: 5.00pm, 1 November 2014.*

### Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Gail Kelly to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science in Economics (honoris causa).

Gail Kelly was born in Pretoria, South Africa in 1956. She was educated at an Anglican school run by English nuns where she excelled in study and sport, and became a prefect in her final year. She attended the University of Cape Town where she undertook an arts degree majoring in modern history and Latin, as well as a Higher Diploma of Education. She married Allan Kelly in December 1977, and the couple moved to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), where she became head and only member of the Latin department at Falcon College, a private school modelled on Eton. In 1986 she completed an MBA at University of the Witwatersrand, which was awarded with distinction, winning the annual prize for Best Research report for her thesis on the topic “Chief Executive Officer Success and the Development of High Potential Employees”.

Gail Kelly began her banking career in 1980s at the Nedcor Bank (now South Africa’s fourth-largest bank) as a teller but was fast-tracked into an accelerated training program. Increasingly disillusioned with the South Africa of the 1990s, the Kellys began searching for a new life elsewhere. In 1997, Gail was appointed as General Manager of Strategic Marketing at the Commonwealth Bank in Sydney. By 2001 Gail had held various senior management roles in a broad range of areas in Nedcor and CBA, including retail and commercial banking, strategy, marketing and human resources. She has spent the last 12 years as CEO of two Australian banks, St George Bank from 2002 to 2007 and Westpac from 2008 to date.

In 2002, Gail Kelly was the first woman to become the Chief Executive Officer of a major Australian bank or one of the top 15 public companies. She is renowned for her ability as a team player, and her vision that the philosophy of the bank be about ‘re-engagement’ – with colleagues, customers, and the wider community. In March, Gail was named as one of the World’s Top 50 Greatest Leaders, headed by Pope Francis; she was the only banker to be included.

Under Gail Kelly’s leadership, Westpac Group today serves 12 million customers, employs around 35,000 people and has more than 1500 branches. In 2014, Westpac was ranked the number one Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporation in the World at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland and was ranked the highest bank globally in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index. In April Westpac announced the launch of the single largest private education scholarship program in Australia’s history, the Westpac Bicentennial Foundation, with a one-off contribution of \$100 million to fund 100 scholarships and awards every year in perpetuity to Australians from all walks of life. Westpac has grown to become one of the 15 largest banks in the world by market capitalisation.

Gail Kelly is chairman of the Australian Bankers’ Association, and sits on the boards of the Business Council of Australia and the Financial Markets Foundation for Children. She is a member of the Prime Minister’s Indigenous Advisory Council and she is also CARE Australia’s Ambassador for Women’s Empowerment.

Internationally, she is vice president of the International Monetary Conference, sits on the Global Board of Advisers at the US Council on Foreign Relations and is a member of the Group of Thirty.

Gail Kelly is recognised for her phenomenal contributions to business and the wider community and is regarded as a leading figure and spokesperson for the Banking and Finance sector in Australia and overseas.

Gail is married, to Allan, and they have four children.

Chancellor, I present Gail Kelly to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science in Economics (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon her.