

Mrs Josephine Sukkar AM

An honorary Fellowship of the University was conferred upon Josephine Sukkar by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM, at a University of Sydney Business School graduation at 2.00pm on 6 June 2019.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Mrs Josephine Sukkar AM to you for an Honorary Fellowship of the University, in recognition of her significant work both professionally and personally to increase opportunities for women in leadership, and her longstanding and substantial contributions to the University through her support for the Sydney University Football Club.

Josephine graduated from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Science Honours, majoring in physiology and pharmacology. A passion for education led her to complete a Graduate Diploma in Education at UNSW, and she taught high school science prior to having her two children.

In 1990, with her husband Tony, Josephine co-founded construction company, Buildcorp. As Principal, she has been instrumental in growing the company to become an industry leader, employing over 330 people with a revenue over \$500 million.

As a professional company director Josephine works across a range of industries, including serving on a number of private, public, government and not-for-profit boards, including The Buildcorp Advisory Board, Growthpoint Properties Australia, Parramatta Park Trust, Opera Australia, the Australian Museum, Property Council of Australia, Centenary Institute of Medical Research, Buildcorp Foundation, Melbourne University Infrastructure Committee and the Australian Rugby Foundation.

She is President of Australian Women's Rugby and through Buildcorp has been a major sponsor of rugby in Australia for nearly 30 years. In this role, Josephine has been able to change the landscape for women in rugby across the nation.

Through Buildcorp, Josephine has worked to address the underrepresentation of women in rugby through her advocacy, and by becoming the naming rights sponsor of the Australian Women's 15s rugby team, the Wallaroos, and the naming rights sponsor of the national women's rugby competition, the Super W. She has been a sponsor of the now combined Sydney University Football Club since 1992, and the Sydney University Women's Rugby Club since 2010. She has also served as a director of the Sydney University Football Club Foundation board since 2010, and was awarded a University Gold Blazer for services to rugby in 2009. She ensures that Buildcorp uses the levers of its sponsorships to create equal opportunities for both men and women in rugby.

As an accomplished businesswoman, Josephine was included as a Shepherd Review Panel Member, under the auspices of the Menzies Research Centre. She contributed to an independent review of the nation's economic challenges, with the aim of laying the foundations for innovation, enterprise and initiative – the core tenets of a modern, competitive economy.

Within Buildcorp, one of Josephine's other focusses has been to work with the sector to increase the participation of women in construction, and to shine a light on the mental health issues that are prominent with male construction workers.

To that end, she has been an active member of Chief Executive Women and the Diversity Committee of the Property Council of Australia, before joining it's national board this year. She was also Co President of the not-for-profit 'Young Women's Christian Association' and the YWCA NSW working with women and at-risk communities. In these roles, she has accomplished much to promote and move towards gender equality both within the construction industry, and in the business community more broadly.

Through the work of the Buildcorp Foundation which Josephine Chairs, over \$2 million has been raised, and to date \$800,000 distributed to Lifeline Australia, and \$1.2 million to Smiling Mind who will roll out mindfulness training to 100,000 NSW primary school students and 8,000 teachers by the end of next year.

She has served as a member of the Nominations Committee of Rugby Australia, a director of the Australian Rugby Foundation and represented Australia at a conference at World Rugby in 2017 to discuss women's rugby globally.

In addition to her love of rugby, Josephine has been an ardent advocate and supporter of the arts. She has been a Director of Opera Australia, Chaired the Advisory Board of VIP Art Tours, and is on the committee of the Bella Dinner for the Museum of Contemporary Art.

In 2017, Josephine was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her significant service to the community through a range of roles with business, sports, community and cultural organisations, and to the property sector.

Chancellor, I present to you Josephine Sukkar and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon her.