

Citation for Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)

(John) Malcolm Fraser AC CH

Not long after completing his education at Melbourne Grammar School and Oxford University, Malcolm Fraser took up his seat as the youngest member of Australia's 22nd federal parliament, thus commencing an extensive period of principled public service which would continue throughout and beyond his political career. His contributions to both national and international affairs have been characterised by a staunch commitment to human rights, an abhorrence of racism, and a determination to secure and preserve the rights of minority groups.

Malcolm Fraser was a minister in the Holt, Gorton and McMahon governments before becoming Leader of the Opposition in March 1975. He became Prime Minister in November 1975 and instituted the programs which not only have had profound impact on the Australian social contract but also reconfigured the nation's stance in Commonwealth and Asian affairs.

The Fraser government passed the Aboriginal Land Rights Act (NT) in 1976, established the position of Commonwealth Ombudsman in 1977, set up both the Institute of Multicultural Affairs and SBS, Australia's multicultural and multilingual broadcaster, in 1978, and established the Australian Refugee Advisory Council in 1979. Nineteen eighty-one saw Australia's first Freedom of Information Act and the establishment of its Human Rights Commission. His government re-fashioned Australia's relationships with its Asian neighbours, not least in changes to its immigration program which ultimately included almost 56,000 Vietnamese refugees.

Malcolm Fraser's productive involvement in Commonwealth affairs, notably, but not exclusively, in Africa, continued well beyond the end of his service as Prime Minister. He jointly chaired the Commonwealth Group of Eminent Persons against Apartheid in South Africa and was Chairman of both the UN Panel of Eminent Persons on the Role of Transnational Corporations in South Africa and the UN Committee on African Commodity Problems.

He formed CARE Australia in 1987, guided it as chairman in its early years, and subsequently served as both president and vice-president of CARE International.

In 2004, Malcolm Fraser designated the University of Melbourne as the official custodian of his personal papers. The collection is of historical significance and was described by the curator of The Malcolm Fraser Collection at the University of Melbourne as having "significant research potential in the areas of policy-making and government".

He has been actively involved with the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law (APCML) since becoming a Professorial Fellow of the University attached to the APCML in 2006, the year in which he founded the 'Australians All' website "dedicated to opposing all forms of racism and discrimination, selectivity in the application of the law and public policy that seeks to divide or exclude."

Malcolm Fraser's contributions have been widely acknowledged throughout Australia and the international community and are reflected in a number of awards and honours which have been bestowed upon him. These have included Japan's Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun (2006); Centenary Medal (2003); Human Rights Medal (2000); Companion of the Order of Australia (1988); B'nai B'rith International's President's Gold Medal for Humanitarian Services (1980); and the Order of the Companions of Honour (1977).

Just this year, Malcolm Fraser was awarded the Grand Companion of the Order of Logohu, Papua New Guinea's highest award, for his services to PNG and for his wider humanitarian work. In addition, the book he co-wrote with Margaret Simons, *Malcolm Fraser: The Political Memoirs*, won Book of the Year and the Douglas Stewart Prize for Non-Fiction at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards 2011.