

**Citation for Her Excellency Quentin Bryce  
Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia**

**AC, CVO**

Her Excellency Quentin Bryce has enjoyed a rich and distinguished career as an academic, lawyer, community and human rights advocate, senior public officer, university college principal, and vice-regal representative in Queensland, and now Australia.

In 1965, Her Excellency, graduated with the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws from The University of Queensland and, in the same year, was one of the first women admitted to the Queensland Bar. In 1968 she became the first woman to be a faculty member of the Law School where she had studied, and in 1978 she joined the new National Women's Advisory Council. This was followed by a number of positions, including the first director of the Queensland Women's Information Service, the Queensland Director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner in 1988. She was appointed Inaugural Chair and CEO of the National Childcare Accreditation Council in 1993, and from 1997-2003 served as Principal of The Women's College at the University of Sydney.

Quentin Bryce's contribution to advancing human rights and equality, the rights of women and children, and the welfare of the family was recognised in her appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1988 and a Companion of the Order of Australia in 2003. Also in 2003, she was invested as a Dame of Grace of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem.

Ms Bryce was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by Macquarie University (New South Wales) in 1998, an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by Charles Sturt University (New South Wales) in 2002, and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws by The University of Queensland in 2006. She was conferred with the degrees of Honorary Doctor of the University by Griffith University (Queensland) in 2003, Queensland University of Technology in 2004, an Honorary Doctorate from James Cook University in 2008, Honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Sydney 2009, and Honorary Doctorate of Letters by the University of Western Sydney 2012.

In her civic role as Governor of Queensland, Ms Bryce continued her work with women, families and young people while extending her influence across the State's broad and diverse spectrum, including the rural, regional, aged, indigenous, migrant, and disability sectors.

As a mother and grandmother, Quentin is a role model and mentor to women at every stage of their lives. She values and encourages women's capacity to form strong and enduring bonds of friendship, intellectual and emotional enrichment, and mutual support in their roles within the family, workplace and community.

On 5 September 2008 Quentin Bryce was sworn in as Australia's twenty-fifth Governor-General. As the first woman to take up the office, she remains a pioneer in contemporary Australian society, and yet one who brings more than forty years of experience in reform, community building and leadership to the role.