

Citation - Dr Michael Keating AC

Dr Michael Keating's contribution to the design, implementation and practice of public policy in the past five decades in Australia has been both exceptional and unrivalled. Dr Keating was the outstanding Commonwealth public servant of his generation. Head of three major Departments (including Prime Minister and Cabinet) during the 1980s and 1990s, he led much of the advice and was responsible for implementing many of the policies now associated with the 'golden age' of economic reform in Australia. In the twenty years since retiring from the Australian Public Service Dr Keating has held leading roles in many public and private organisations. He has also been an important contributor to research and debate on public policy in Australia publishing almost 100 articles in referred journals and books on topics including economic policy, public sector management reform, and policy choices Australia faces today.

Dr Keating was born in Victoria in 1940. He graduated from University of Melbourne with a B.Com. (First class honours) in 1962, and was awarded a PhD from the ANU in 1967 for his research on 'The Australian Workforce 1910-11 to 1960-61'.

Dr Keating was Head of the Department of Employment and Industrial Relations (1983 to 1986), Head of the Department of Finance (1986 to 1991), and Head of the Australian Public Service and the Cabinet Secretary and Head of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (1991 to 1996). Subsequently, he was a member of many private and public Boards including Australia Post, Fujitsu Australia, the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) of NSW, Skills Australia and the Australian National University Council. He is currently Chairman of the newly formed Committee for Sustainable Retirement Incomes.

A major area of contribution by Dr Keating has been to the governance of public utilities. As Head of the Department of Finance he was responsible for the advice that under-pinned the corporatisation policies that resulted in the changes in governance of major public enterprises, and the privatisation of some. Subsequently as Head of the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet Dr Keating was closely involved in the development of competition policy that introduced competition to the operations of public utilities and established the basis for their future economic regulation. Some years later, as Executive Chairman of IPART, Dr Keating was responsible for reforming the approach to price setting for the principal public utilities in NSW which has resulted in new innovative approaches to the financing of major capital works.

From 1997 to 2007, and from 2012 onwards, Dr Keating has been a Visiting Fellow in the Economics Program in the Research School of Social Sciences at the Australian National University. In the late 1990s and early 2000s Dr Keating was a lead researcher on a major ARC research project into the Future of Governance. This project resulted in four books including the final book in the series authored by Dr Keating '*Who Rules? How government retains control of a privatised economy*' which examined the relationship between markets, government and society. Other major works by Dr Keating include *The Making of Australian Economic Policy 1983-88* (with Geoff Dixon), and most recently in 2015 *Fairness, Opportunity*

and Security: Filling the Policy Vacuum (edited with John Menadue).

Dr Keating is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, Australia, and a Fellow of the Institute of Public Administration, Australia. In 1990 Dr Keating became an Officer of the Order of Australia, and a Companion of the Order in 1996. In 2000 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Griffiths University. In 2001 he was awarded the Centenary Medal for his contribution to Australian society.