

## Citation – Elizabeth Alexander AO

Elizabeth Alexander established herself as a leader within Australian accounting at an early stage in her career. As the first female partner of a Big 6 accounting firm she was uniquely placed to promote the interests of women in the profession. She has worked continuously to empower women both within the accounting profession and the wider business community. Attaining professional success early in her career provided the opportunity to be engaged in the wider development of the profession over a sustained period of time. Elizabeth Alexander has used this time wisely and to great advantage. Through her drive and initiative, she introduced risk management and corporate governance to her firm's portfolio of services. Part of her legacy is that these activities are now staple offerings of most large accounting firms. As a director of Australian Accounting Standards Board and Deputy Chairman of the Financial Reporting Council, Elizabeth has also been extensively involved in broad oversight of the accounting and auditing standard-setting process. As a member of the Takeovers Panel she has also been an active regulator. As a senior office holder with CPA Australia she was also actively involved in efforts to bring regulatory backing to accounting standards. Many awards have come Elizabeth's way. Her professional accounting body, CPA Australia as well as the Australian Institute of Company Directors bestowed Life Membership. She was also made an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia as well as a Centenary Medal

The Australian Accounting Hall of Fame honours Elizabeth Alexander as a pioneer female practitioner, mentor, accounting and auditing standard-setter and regulator.

Elizabeth Alexander AO FCPA FAICD has demonstrated leadership and passion for over forty years by empowering business women through her extensive involvement and active contribution to the accounting profession. She has been a pioneer breaking new ground in accounting as the first female partner in a 'Big 6' accounting firm. She was also the first female State and National President of CPA Australia as well as the first female National President of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Her outstanding contribution to enhance women's lives has been demonstrated by leadership and successful promotion of women's interests and modelled participation and representation at many levels including significant roles on boards and quality committees.

Elizabeth Alexander is a non-executive Chairman of Medibank, and the Dexus Property Wholesale Fund, and is an Advisor to Ashurst's corporate team. She has also been the Chairman of CSL Ltd as well as a director of DEXUS Property Group, Boral and Amcor Ltd She has also been appointed as the independent Chair of the Audit Committee of the Australian Prudential Regulator (APRA). She is a former member of the Takeovers Panel and was the Deputy Chair of the Financial Reporting Council. As a former Partner of PricewaterhouseCoopers (1977 to 2002), she specialised in the area of risk management and corporate governance issues and was instrumental in the establishment of these practices in the Australian firm. She was named as a Veuve Cliquot Business Woman of the Year

Elizabeth is a former National and State President of CPA Australia and is a past National President of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has held a large number of positions within CPA Australia. It was during her Presidency of CPA Australia that the drive for legal backing to accounting standards in Australia was achieved. Elizabeth is one of only two female Life Members of CPA Australia. In 2019 she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO).

In 1997 she was appointed to Chair the Finance Committee of the University of Melbourne and continued in this role for the duration of her Chancellorship of the University of Melbourne – January 2001 to December 2016.