

PROFESSOR ALLAN FELS AO

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Born in 1942 in Perth, Allan Fels graduated in economics and law from the University of Western Australia in 1965. A Fulbright Fellow, he received a PhD in Economics from Duke University. After leaving Duke he was a research fellow in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Cambridge, where he completed his highly regarded study: *The British Prices and Incomes Board* published by Cambridge University Press. Allan returned to Australia in 1972 to take up a lectureship at the University of Melbourne, but soon after moved to Monash University. From 1985 until 1990 he was a Professor and Director of the Graduate School of Management at Monash.

Allan was Chair of the Trade Practices Commission from 1991 to 1995 and Chair of the Australian Competition & Consumer Commission from 1995 to 2003. Under his leadership the role and effectiveness of both bodies was dramatically transformed. In recognition of his service to Australian competition policy Professor Fels was made a member of the Order of Australia in June 2001.

Upon his retirement from the ACCC Professor Fels became the Foundation Dean of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, a position he occupied until 2012. This school provides training programs for top public servants. He also conducted ANZSOG programs for high-level Chinese and Indian public service and political leaders. He continues to be a Fellow of the School.

Professor Fels remains a leading figure globally in competition policy. He co-chaired the OECD Trade and Competition Committee from 1996 to 2003 and continues regularly to be a keynote speaker at major global competition events including the International Competition Network Annual Conference and the OECD Global Competition Forum. He contributed to the drafting the Chinese Antimonopoly Law 2008 and has advised the Chinese government on the law's implementation. Academically, he is co-director of the Competition Research Centre at the Chinese Academy of Science, a prestigious position, and an international adviser to the Chinese Academy of Social Science.

Allan has played a major role in mental health policy as chair of the National Mental Health Commission, as a Commissioner of the Victorian Royal Commission on Mental Health, as Chair of Mind Australia and as Chair of the Haven Foundation, which provides accommodation, care and support for mentally ill people. He has also been involved in numerous public inquiries into the Industrial Relations Commission, Taxis, parliamentary entitlements, executive remuneration and the pay and working conditions of migrant workers, to name only a few.

Turning to the private sector, he chairs the Governance Board of Visy Australasia, Australia's largest private sector firm. He has also been a member of Uber's global advisory board on public policy. He chairs the Public Interest Journalism Initiative.

In 2005 he was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia (ASSA).

Allan Fels has been a Professorial Fellow at the University of Melbourne since 2003, currently both at the Melbourne Law School and the Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research. He has been a visiting Professor at the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at Oxford University. He has also been an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Business and Economics at Monash University since 1995.

Allan Fels is one of Australia's best-known economists among the general public. He is highly regarded by his peers and is very deserving of an honorary doctorate from the University of Melbourne.