

## **Citation for The Hon Julia Gillard AC Friday 13 October 2017.**

**Award recipient:** The Hon Julia Gillard AC  
**Award being conferred:** Honorary Doctor of the University (DUniv)  
**Citation delivered by:** Professor David Lloyd

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**The University of South Australia awards the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit.**

It is my pleasure to confer the Honourable Julia Gillard AC with the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.

During the time from 2010 to 2013 that Julia Gillard was Australia's 27th Prime Minister, she could count among her achievements a demonstrably strong economy (despite the on-going impacts of the GFC which adversely affected other western economies) with Australia having a low inflation, low unemployment, comparatively low government debt and record levels of investment.

She took action on climate change via the carbon tax with proceeds used to compensate consumers and develop renewable energy projects.

The National Broadband Network roll out took effect. We also saw a health reform package, implementation of the Houston Plan on asylum seekers, Australia gain a place as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the Minerals Resource Rent Tax and plain packaging for cigarettes.

At the time, in education, major reforms resulted in record numbers of students attaining university degrees, apprenticeships and traineeships.

Australians saw the introduction of paid parental leave for both parents, the Schoolkids Bonus and an increase in the tax free threshold from \$6,000 to \$18,200 meaning one million of our poorest workers pay no tax at all.

There were record increases for pensioners and improvements in working conditions for lower paid workers under the Fair Work Act after the highly unpopular Workchoices was repealed.

Some believe that her government had a clear vision for the future and implemented massive reforms for the nation's future - the National Disability Insurance Scheme, the Gonski Report on Education and preparations to meet the opportunities of the Asian Century.

Post her Prime Ministership, Ms Gillard turned her talents back to education, chairing some organisations and being a board member of others devoted to furthering educational opportunities for socially disadvantaged people, particularly girls.

Ms Gillard's more recent focus – since joining and then Chairing beyondblue - is on mental health, and continuing to expand on the vital work the organisation has made in terms of there now being a greater and growing preparedness to talk, think and act on mental health and to prevent suicide.

Ms Gillard has been quoted saying: “These days – most of the time – mental health conditions are treated with compassion and understanding. But not all of the time. We still have a long way to go in fighting the stigma and discrimination that surrounds mental health. Language, images, discussion, communication and education all play an extraordinary role in shaping a better future.”

(To Ms Gillard)

Ms Gillard, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present you with the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of your distinguished service to the community.