

Ms Adele Ferguson AM

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*): Ms Adele Ferguson AM.

Adele is one of Australia's most decorated and respected media figures. She is an acclaimed investigative journalist with a career spanning Australian print and broadcast media, exposing corruption, fraud, and scandal along the way.

Following graduation from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Economics and a Bachelor of Arts (Honors), Adele started her career in journalism at *The Advertiser*.

From there Adele held roles at the *Business Review Weekly* magazine, *The Australian* and senior positions at *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and the *Australian Financial Review*, where she undertook a series of joint ventures with *Four Corners* and *60 Minutes*.

Now working for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's investigative unit, you may have seen her work on flagship ABC news and current affairs programs *Four Corners* and *7.30*.

Adele is the author of the 2012 best-selling unauthorised biography, *Gina Rinehart: The Untold Story of the Richest Woman in the World* and the award-winning, *Banking Bad: Whistleblowers. Corporate cover-ups. One journalist's fight for the truth* (2019).

The impact of Adele Ferguson's work has at times been seismic, sparking national and state inquiries, legislative change, and a Royal Commission. Among other exposés, she has uncovered:

- The dark underbelly of the multi-billion-dollar cosmetic surgery industry
- Exposure of fraud, waste, and abuse within the Medicare system
- Systemic wage fraud in the franchise sector, which resulted in a parliamentary inquiry, compensation payments of more than \$150 million to thousands of vulnerable foreign workers, and changes to the law.

Her investigations into the banking industry, including the Commonwealth Bank's financial planning and life insurance scandals, helped bring about a Royal Commission. Throughout her career, Adele has proven her commitment to improving the protection of whistleblowers and giving vulnerable people a voice.

Adele is Chair of the Walkley Foundation, a previous president of the Melbourne Press Club, and joined the La Trobe University Business School as an Adjunct Professor in 2020.

Widely respected and recognised for excellence in her field, Adele has won a multitude of awards, including the nation's highest journalism award, the Gold Walkley, for her Four Corners program, *Banking Bad*.

She has also won a total of nine Walkley awards; a Logie for Best Current Affairs program; the Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award; 20 Melbourne Press Club Quill Awards, including two Gold Quills; 14 Kennedy Awards, including two Gold Kennedy Awards; and four National Press Club awards, including Journalist of the Year.

In 2019 Adele was made a Member of the Order of Australia for her significant service to the print and broadcast media as a journalist and business commentator.

Today we extend that recognition, in awarding the highest honour the University can bestow.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present Ms Adele Ferguson, Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Bachelor of Economics, Member of the Order of Australia, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).