



WENDY McCARTHY AO – Profile

Wendy McCarthy began her career as a secondary school teacher and remains passionate about the power of education. For four decades she has been a teacher, educator and change agent in Australian public life. In 2005 she was nominated by the *Sydney Morning Herald* as one of Australia's Top 100 Public Intellectuals.

She has worked with government, corporations and community based organisations in education, women's issues, public health, heritage, media and waste management and she has held national leadership roles in all of these areas. It is this eclectic combination that gives her a unique profile and network nationally and internationally. She has represented Australia at conferences on women's health and leadership, education, broadcasting, conservation and heritage and for four years was Chair of the Advisory Committee of WHO Kobe Centre, Japan.

Currently she is Chair of Circus Oz; Chair of McGrath Estate Agents; Chair of NSW Sustainable Access Priority Taskforce; Chair of Sydney Community Foundation, Vice Chair of Plan International; Director and Past Chair of Plan Australia, Member of the NSW Health Care Advisory Council and the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance and Chair of the Accreditation Advisory Board of the Advertising Federation of Australia.

Her corporate advisory practice, McCarthy Management, specialises in providing mentors to major corporations and the public sector. For over ten years she has assisted these organisations with issues around diversity, leadership and work life balance. Her clients have included Citigroup, UBS, Lehman Brothers (Tokyo), Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Allens Arthur Robinson, the Department of Lands, The Australia Council and Delta Electricity.

Wendy McCarthy has published many articles and is the author of five books including *A Fair Go - Portraits of the Australian Dream* published by Focus Publishing in 1999, and her memoirs *Don't Fence Me In* published by Random House in 2000. She enjoys public speaking and is an experienced speaker and facilitator.

In 2000 she established Corporate Good Works as a specialist broker to bring together corporations and not-for-profits in mutually beneficial and sustainable partnerships. Its initial achievement was to broker a three-year relationship between Citigroup and the

Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre with the objective of training the next generation of Indigenous leaders. It was the largest corporate/Indigenous partnership in Australia and was facilitated by Corporate Good Works.

In 2003, in partnership with UBS, Wendy created a Finance Academy for Year 11 public school students. This was followed in 2004 by a Young Women's Leadership Academy. These have been innovative and successful. In 2006 an Indigenous Academy for Year 10 public school students was added to the portfolio.

In 2005 she completed a decade as Chancellor of the University of Canberra and she was a founding member of the Australian Chancellors' Conference.

Wendy McCarthy has held executive and non-executive director roles in many of Australia's leading private and public institutions including Executive Director, Australian Federation of Family Planning Associations; Deputy Chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) for eight years; General Manager of Marketing and Communications, the Australian Bicentennial Authority; Chair of the National Better Health Program; Executive Director of the National Trust; Director Star City; Chair of the Australian Heritage Commission; and Chair of Symphony Australia.

Her advocacy and leadership have been recognised nationally and in 1989 she was appointed an officer of the Order of Australia for outstanding contributions to community affairs, women's affairs and the Bicentennial celebrations. In 1996 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of South Australia and in 2003 she was awarded a Centenary of Federation medal for business leadership.

She has been married to Gordon for 44 years and they have three adult children and three grandchildren.

Wendy McCarthy, career summary

In addition to her portfolio of clients, Wendy holds the following positions:

Executive Director, Corporate Good Works and McCarthy Management Pty Ltd
Vice Chair, Plan International
Director and Past Chair, Plan Australia
Chair, Circus Oz
Chair, McGrath Estate Agents
Chair, Sydney Community Foundation
Member, NSW Health Care Advisory Council
Co-Chair, NSW Sustainable Access Health Priority Taskforce
Patron, Australian Reproductive Health Alliance
Chair, Accreditation Advisory Board of the Advertising Federation of Australia.

Executive and non-executive positions have included:

Chair, Plan Australia (1998-06)
Chancellor, University of Canberra (1996-05)
Consultant and co-author, *Playing By the Rules: On and Off the Field*, a report commissioned by the National Rugby League (NRL), (2004)
Chair, NSW Health Participation Council (2003-04)
Chair, Symphony Australia (2001-03)
Director, Australian Multicultural Foundation (1997-2000)
Member, Australian State of the Environment Advisory Committee (1999-2001)
Member, Sydney Symphony Orchestra Council (1996 – current)
Member, Australian Advertising Standards Board (1996-98)
Chair, Advisory Committee WHO Kobe Centre (1999-2002)
Member, EPAC Task Force report to Prime Minister on Australia's child care needs to the year 2010 (1995-97)
Chair, The Look of the City Committee, Sydney City Council (1999-2000)
Member, North Limited, Environment, Health and Safety Advisory Committee (1996)
Member, Olympic Urban Design Review Panel & Olympic Public Art Committee (1997-2000)
Trustee, Adelaide Festival Centre Trust (1996 -2000)
Director, Star City Pty Ltd (1994-99)
Chair, Clean-Up Australia Environment Foundation (1996-98)
Chair, Australian Heritage Commission (1995-98)
Chair, Royal Hospital for Women Foundation (1995-1997)
President, Chief Executive Women (1995)
CEO, Price Brent (commercial legal firm) (1994)
Member, Independent Panel on Intractable Waste (1991-92)
CEO, National Trust of Australia, NSW (1990-93)
Chair, National Better Health Program (1989-92)
Deputy Chair, Australian Broadcasting Corporation (1983-91)
General Manager, Australian Bicentennial Authority (1985-89)
Member, NSW Higher Education Board (1980-83)
Commissioner, NSW Education Commission (1981-83)
Member, National Women's Advisory Council (1978-81)
CEO, Family Planning Association of Australia (1979-84)
Co-founder Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) (1972)

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