

SYMPOSIUM 2015: Human Rights equals Prosperity

Public Lecture



“Questions for Australia in the Modern Refugee Debate”

Presented by

Sunshine Coast
Business Council
one vision one voice 



SPEAKER

The Hon. Catherine Branson QC

Former Federal Court Judge, President and Commissioner – Human Rights Commission

[SEE BACK FOR PROFILE](#)

Recent events in Europe have shown that the irregular immigration crisis that the world is facing has barely touched Australia. Yet although Australia has a proud history of humanitarian resettlement, our policies towards irregular immigrants are probably the harshest in the world and breach our international human rights obligations. Does Australia have a moral obligation to do more to support world efforts to resettle those forced from their homes by conflict and violence?

Can we continue indefinitely to detain in appalling circumstances men, women and children whose only ‘crime’ is to have travelled to Australia by boat to seek asylum?

Can the cost of doing so be justified in our thriving multicultural country in which 6.6 million of the population (28%) were born overseas?

Thursday 5 November 2015
5.30pm - 6.30pm

**Lecture Theatre
A Block
TAFE Queensland East Coast**
34 Lady Musgrave Drive
Mountain Creek

Book online through Trybooking
before 29th October
www.trybooking.com/JEQX

TICKETS:

Tickets are **FREE** but
registration essential as
numbers are limited

EMAIL ENQUIRIES TO:
info@scbusinesscouncil.com.au

www.scbusinesscouncil.com.au

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Terms & Conditions

Registrations are to be made online through Trybooking: www.trybooking.com/JEQX

The lecture is free but online registrations are essential. Tickets will be issued directly upon confirmation. Substitute registrations can be made any time up to 2 November.

The Public Lecture forms part of an overall Symposium to be presented by the Sunshine Coast Business Council in conjunction with its Venue and Event Partner, TAFE Queensland East Coast.

The Symposium commences with a Lunch on **“Unconscious Bias in the Workplace and the Importance of Strong Leadership”** and is followed by the Conference **“Five Decades of Women’s Careers – what has changed?”** commencing at 2.00pm.

You can register for individual events or all three Symposium segments – see full brochure for further details. Pricing Packages are available.



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SPEAKER PROFILE

Catherine Branson’s early years were spent on a sheep and wheat farm in rural South Australia. She and her brother were the first from either side of their family to attend university.

She graduated from the University of Adelaide with degrees in Arts and Law. She was admitted to practice as a legal practitioner in 1974. After working for a short time as a junior legal academic, she was employed by a firm of commercial solicitors before she joined the Attorney General’s Department of SA. Eight years later, just before her 36th birthday, she was appointed Crown Solicitor of South Australia and Secretary of the Attorney General’s Department (SA). This made her the first female Crown Solicitor in the common law world and the first woman in SA (and only the second in Australia) to be appointed to head a government department.

Catherine resigned from public employment in 1989 to practice as a barrister at the private bar. She was appointed Queen’s Counsel in 1992.

In 1994 she became a judge of the Federal Court of Australia and one of the first women to serve on that court. On the court she specialized in administrative and human rights law, intellectual property law and industrial law. While serving as a judge she became involved in judicial education both within Australia and internationally. She lectured at the National Judicial College of China, travelled to Jakarta to provide intellectual property training to Indonesia judges and worked with the Asia Development Bank as a visiting judge in Pakistan. She also travelled to Iran at the invitation of the Attorney General of the Commonwealth to join the Australian delegation to Tehran for Iran’s first ever human rights dialogue.

Catherine received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Adelaide in 2011, a Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) from Flinders University in 2012 and Doctor of Letters (honoris causa) from Macquarie University in 2014.

After serving more than 14 year on the Federal Court of Australia, Catherine accepted appointment as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission. The following year she was additionally appointed the Human Rights Commissioner. As President she initiated significant organizational change at the Commission, changed the processes by which its priorities were set, and led its educational and dispute resolution work. As Human Rights Commissioner she was the Commission’s spokesperson on immigration policy and on the rights of children, asylum seekers and the LGBTI community.

Since retiring as President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Catherine has been an Adjunct Professor at the Adelaide Law School. She continues to be an advocate for human rights, including for the rights of women particularly in employment and public life generally. She has additionally involved herself with the not-for-profit sector in the areas of higher education, human rights and health. She is also enjoying spending more time with her husband, her elderly mother, her extended family and friends - and cooking, reading and tending her small garden.



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