

Diane Smith-Gander AO

Leading Australian Executive & Keynote Speaker

Diane Gander-Smith is one of Australia's most powerful women. Her professional expertise has influenced the direction of diverse businesses from finance and energy through to tourism and wine.

Known for her enthusiastic, energetic and direct can-do style, Diane believes in building on strengths rather than addressing weaknesses. A thought provoking keynote speaker, she offers audiences innovative and intelligent approaches to business and leadership.

Diane is non-Executive director AGL Energy, Wesfarmers Limited, NQA Group of Companies, Chair of Safe Work Australia, Asbestos Safety & Eradication Council, a board member of Keystart Loans, CEDA, member of the NRFA Partnership Council, and past President of Chief Executive Women, Australia's pre-eminent women's advocacy group. She is appointed to the three member panel to review the capability of APRA, the banking industry regulator following the findings of the Hayne Royal Commission.

Diane has held a wide range of non-executive roles in the past including Chairman of Broadspectrum, Deputy Chairperson of NBNCo, non-executive director of the CBH Group, commissioner of Tourism WA and board member of the Committee for Perth.

Diane's last executive role was Group Executive at Westpac; a member of the leadership team of the corporation, responsible for all Information Technology, back office operations, global vendor management and property. Diane was a General Manager at Westpac for 10 years in the 1990s responsible for back office functions, retail networks and support functions. Prior to re-joining Westpac Diane was a partner at McKinsey & Company in Washington and New Jersey serving clients in diverse industries globally. Diane became a senior advisor to McKinsey in Australia in 2016.

Diane has been active in sports administration and is a past Chairman of both Basketball Australia Limited, the sport's peak body, and the Australian Sports Drug Agency, the government agency responsible for deterring the use of performance enhancing drugs.

Diane holds an MBA from the University of Sydney and a BEc from the University of Western Australia (UWA). In 2015 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Economics from UWA. She is a Fellow of the AICD and Governance Institute of Australia and an adjunct professor of corporate governance at UWA where she serves on the advisory board of the Business School. She is also a Council member of Perth's Methodist Ladies' College.



Diane is a keen down hill skier and operates a vineyard in Margaret River.

Client Testimonials



Diane spoke really well. She was clearly passionate about the subject matter and was willing to share her corporate experiences with the audience which was appreciated. It was clear that the audience found Diane's address interesting and relatable.

Asia Pacific Loan Market Association

[VIEW SPEAKER'S BIO ONLINE ▶](#)