

Diane Smith-Gander AO

Leading Australian Executive & Keynote Speaker

Diane Smith-Gander AO 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.

Diane is a professional non-executive director maintaining a diverse portfolio over varying types of entities, industries and geographies. She is an advocate for gender equity and a past president of CEW, Australia's pre-eminent women's advocacy group which counts more than 500 of Australia's senior female leaders as its members.



More about Diane Smith-Gander AO:

Diane is non-executive chair of Zip Co Limited, a non-executive director of AGL Energy Limited (Australia's largest power generator and retailer), HBF Health Limited (a member owned private health insurer), DDH1 (drilling services and geological information) and Keystart Loans group (a state owned low deposit mortgage provider). In the Federal Government sphere, she chairs the member body for Safe Work Australia, a tripartite body setting work health and safety policy for Australia.

In 2019, Diane was a member of the panel that reviewed the capability of APRA (the Australian financial system prudential regulator) enacting one of the landmark Hayne Royal Commission recommendations. She is also the Chair of the inaugural Nominations Committee for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and was the Chair of a 3 member panel conducting an independent review of Football Federation Australia (FFA) National Teams' Management.

Diane serves pro bono as Chair for the Committee for the Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), Chair of the Business School Advisory Board for the University of Western Australia (UWA) and Deputy Chair of the Council for Methodist Ladies' College (MLC).

Diane has maintained a life long interest in sport. She represented WA basketball as a junior and senior and played in the precursor leagues to the WNBL. Her initial involvement in sports governance was on the committee of her local basketball association and then as a member of the WA Basketball Association tribunal.



Diane chaired the Australian Sports Drug Agency in the period leading up to the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Diane was a member of the steering committee asked to work towards the unification of basketball in 2008. This led to Diane become a member of the board of Basketball Australia and eventually its chair during an extremely difficult period for the sport.

Diane holds an MBA from the University of Sydney and a BEc from UWA. In 2015 she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Economics from UWA. She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), Governance Institute of Australia (GIA) and an adjunct professor of corporate governance at UWA. In 2018 Diane was the Business Award winner in the West Australian of the Year Awards in recognition of her contribution to business in the state and her advocacy for gender equity. She received the President's Award from the GIA in 2017 for exemplary service to the profession. She also became an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2019 for services to business, women's engagement in executive roles, gender equality and the community.

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*

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