

**Citation for Natasha Jessica Stott Despoja AM, BA  
Thursday 18 April, 2019 at 10:30am**

**Officiator: Ms Pauline Carr, Chancellor**

**Award being conferred: Doctor of the University (DUniv)**

**Citation delivered by: Professor Joanne Cys, Pro Vice Chancellor Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences.**

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**Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit. It is my pleasure to present Natasha Jessica Stott Despoja AM for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.**

Natasha Stott Despoja is the founding Chair of Our Watch, the national foundation to prevent violence against women and their children. She is the author of *On Violence*, published by Melbourne University Press.

Ms Stott Despoja is the former Ambassador for Women and Girls (2013-2016). As the Ambassador, she travelled extensively throughout the Indo-Pacific region to promote women's economic empowerment, leadership and an end to violence against women and girls internationally. Ms Stott Despoja was a World Bank Gender Advisory Council member from 2015 to 2017 and served on the 2017 United Nations High Level Working Group on the Health and Human Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents. In 2001 she was made a Global Leader for Tomorrow by the World Economic Forum.

In 2018, she was named one of the Top **100 Global Influencers on Gender Policy**.

Ms Stott Despoja has represented and led delegations for Australia at international meetings such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women, the APEC Women and the Economy Forum, the Global Summit on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict, the G(irls) 20 Summit and the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children. She has addressed the United Nations Security Council.

Ms Stott Despoja is a former Senator for South Australia and former Leader of the Australian Democrats, and is both the youngest woman ever to enter the Australian Federal Parliament and the longest-serving Democrat Senator in the party's history.

She has an enduring interest in women's leadership, particularly political and parliamentary leadership, and has previous experience as an election monitor in countries including Nigeria, Indonesia, Cambodia and, most recently, as an observer for the Commonwealth in Kenya in 2017.

In recognition of her service to the Australian Parliament, to education and as a role model for women, in 2011, Ms Stott Despoja was made a Member of the Order of Australia.

Ms Stott Despoja is a member of ANU Council. She is the former Deputy Chair of beyondblue, a former non-executive Board member and patron of the Burnet Institute, and has served on the boards of the South Australian Museum (2009-2013), the Advertising Standards Board (2008-2013) and the Museum of Australian Democracy (2010-2013). She is the South Australian Ambassador for Ovarian Cancer Australia, is an Ambassador for The Orangutan Project, Share the Dignity, ActionAid and the HIV/AIDS anti-stigma campaign, ENUF. She has also served on MRI advisory groups, and on The Big Issue's SA advisory group.

Ms Stott Despoja is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow at The University of Adelaide and was a member of the Prime Minister's Referendum Council from 2015 to 2017. She is a Broad Agenda 50:50 by 2030 Advisory Group member; a Director of Carrie Bickmore's Beanies for Brain Cancer; a member of the FIFA 2023 Women's World Cup Bid Steering Committee; and a member of the Global Women's Institute Leadership Council. She has been a member of the South Australian Rhodes Scholarship committee for the past two years.

**Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Ms Natasha Jessica Stott Despoja AM for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.**