

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY

This award recognises staff and alumni of the University whose contributions to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community have demonstrated distinguished service of a high degree.

NB: In 2004, this award was called the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to the University

Mr Gary Banks

Since graduating from the Australian National University in 1974 with a Master of Economics from the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Gary Banks has had a distinguished career in both the public and private sectors. In his early career he worked with the GATT Secretariat in Geneva, the Trade Policy Research Centre in London, the OECD, the World Bank and the Centre for International Economics in Canberra. From 1990 until 1998, Gary served as Commissioner and then Executive Commissioner of the Industry Commission. He is now Chairman of the Productivity Commission, a position he has held since the Commission was established in 1998.

As the Productivity Commissioner, Mr Banks advises the Government on all aspects of microeconomic policy and regulation and conducts public inquiries and research into a broad range of economic and social issues affecting the welfare of Australians. He has led important national inquiries on a variety of public policy and regulatory topics including on Australia's Gambling Industries and First Home Ownership.

In addition to leading economic reforms in respect of industry and productivity, Mr Banks has introduced many innovations to enhance the processing and operation of the Commission's inquiries and to broaden its horizons.

Gary Banks has also published widely on trade and agricultural policy, trading blocs and on improving the competitiveness of Australian industry.

The University is proud to honor Gary Banks for his significant contribution and commitment to making Australia a better and more prosperous place through economic reform.

Citation read on 29 July 2004, on presentation of award.