

**Introduction of Guest Speaker, Ms Julie McKay,  
at the inaugural joint Commencement Dinner  
for The Women's College and St Paul's College within the University of  
Sydney,  
The Westin Hotel, Sydney,  
Monday 4 March 2019**

Dr Bell, Vice-Chancellor, Chairs of the two College Councils, our guest speaker Julie McKay, staff and students of both The Women's College and St Paul's College –

What a delight it is to be here tonight at this our inaugural joint Commencement Dinner for our two colleges – colleges which, as Max Glanville said, are close and equal partners, and have been partners since the founding of The Women's College in 1892.

The historic partnership between our colleges is today growing stronger and stronger, and I want to thank Dr Bell for her leadership in this and for her initiative in suggesting this dinner and in ensuring its success.

Both our Colleges are deeply conscious that we are colleges within the University of Sydney, and we are very grateful to the Vice-Chancellor, who has a deep understanding of the value of collegiate education, for his presence tonight and his support for our colleges, including as we work to ensure that we are the best that we can be.

When Dr Bell and I were discussing who we might ask to be our guest speaker tonight, I immediately thought of Julie McKay, one of Australia's foremost leaders in thinking and acting about diversity and inclusion, and about gender equality – and someone not afraid to speak her mind, as I hope she will do tonight, to stimulate our thinking and discussion.

The reason I suggested Julie McKay is because in my mind it is crucial both for young women *and for young men* to be thinking about these issues.

In both our colleges, we pride ourselves on nurturing leaders for the future. No one, male or female, can be fully equipped for effective leadership for the future in modern Australia or in the wider world if they haven't thought about the issues of diversity and inclusion, and of gender equality.

At St Paul's, we have committed ourselves to being leaders against sexism, and as well as implementing what we have already promised in our Action Plan for cultural renewal, we are actively thinking about what more it means to be such leaders, both as an institution and as individuals.

Our speaker tonight, Julie McKay, is the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer for PwC Australia. She has previously served for nine years as Executive Director of UN Women

Australia. She has also served as Gender Adviser to the Chief of the Australian Defence Force, spending time across Australia understanding military culture and addressing the barriers to gender equality within Defence.

Julie is a graduate of the University of Queensland, where she secured a Bachelor of Business Management and a Bachelor of Arts; of the Australian National University, where she secured a Master's in Public Policy; and of the University of Sydney, where she secured an Executive MBA. Quite remarkably, she has been recognised with alumni awards from the University of Queensland and the University of Sydney, and as one of the prominent alumni of the ANU; and her many other awards include a Churchill Fellowship, a Vincent Fairfax Fellowship in Ethical Leadership at the Melbourne Business School, the Australian Institute of Management's Young Manager of the Year in 2010, Telstra Young Business Woman of the year (ACT) in 2011, and ACT Young Australian of the Year in 2013.

Living now in Brisbane, as well as leading PwC Australia's work on diversity and inclusion both internally and with clients, Julie convenes the Queensland Male Champions of Change. Her several past or present positions on boards of not-for-profit organisations include being the former Chair of the Council of The Women's College, and the current Chair of the Trustees of Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

We are very grateful to Julie McKay for agreeing to speak with us tonight, and for coming from Brisbane to be with us.

Please join me in warmly welcoming our guest speaker, Julie McKay.