

## Dagmar Egen Citation

Dagmar Egen has over 30 years experience in the field of computer science and information technology with extensive management experience in both the public and private sectors. She is currently the State Manager of Aspect Computing - one of Australia's oldest and largest information technology companies.

As a member of Council, Dagmar was instrumental in the negotiations which led to the formation of the University of South Australia in 1991.

The business of Council during those first three or so years of the University was especially complex, and we are very grateful to Dagmar for committing a significant amount of time and energy into the establishment of the Council and the University. She was instrumental in securing a \$1million hardware and IT donation from Tandem Computing in those early years which was a major milestone for the University.

In the first year, the joint Council established a few committees which it saw as absolutely essential - one was the Audit Committee, established in 1992 with Dagmar as presiding officer. The Audit Committee was a particularly important committee which, during the first few years, reviewed the University's budget and staffing levels and dealt with a range of other issues that had to be resolved before the University could move forward.

In 1992, Dagmar was appointed Deputy Chancellor. She held this position for almost 10 years, retiring only at the end of last year. Dagmar has deputised for the inaugural Chancellor, Mr John McDonald, for Basil Hetzel and for our current Chancellor, Mr David Klingberg, on many occasions, including in around 50 graduation ceremonies, which is no mean feat!

Dagmar was an early adopter of technology and took a leadership role in an industry not noted for women in senior positions. In fact, she was often a trailblazer for women in leadership positions. In 1996, she became South Australia's first female fellow of the Australian Computer Society.

In 2001, Dagmar was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for service to education, information technology, multicultural affairs and state development in South Australia.

I am personally proud to call Dagmar and her husband Wilf friends. We met through the University and our friendship has continued despite her stealing some of our best support staff.

Dagmar has outstanding personal qualities. Those of particular value to the University include clear vision, firm ideas about how to proceed and the communication skills to successfully achieve her vision.

The Deputy Chancellor is frequently called on for ceremonial tasks. Dagmar's contribution to the University has extended far beyond this, not only through those personal qualities and business experience that I have already referred to, but through active and productive service on Committees of Council, including the Finance and Audit Committees.

Her senior appointments include: Chairman of the Passenger Transport Board, Vice President of the SA Women's Trust, a Founding Member of the SA Multicultural Forum, a Founding Board Member of READII, a Trustee of Business Vision 2010, a Board Member of WCIT, an Awards Panel Member of the Equal Opportunities Commission and a Member of the Federal Government IR&D Board.

Chancellor, it is my great pleasure, on behalf of the University of South Australia, to present to you, Dagmar Egen, for the award, 'the honorary degree of Doctor of the University' for her extraordinary contribution to the University and to the State of South Australia through her endeavours in information technology and multicultural affairs.