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Rhonda Galbally AO

Has focussed her life's work on making a difference for a just society.

Our Community Pty Ltd

A CEO for 25 years in the nongovernment, business, philanthropic and government sectors, Rhonda's leadership in finding effective solutions for social, health and economic development culminated in her establishing in 2000 www.ourcommunity.com.au – a hub of resources, training and advice to help improve the operational and governance capacity of Australia's 700,000 non government organisations in fundraising, grant seeking, governance, marketing and formation of partnerships with business and local, state and federal governments. Rhonda is a member of the federal government's National Compact Expert Panel – assisting government and nongovernment sectors to develop a partnership compact.

The Australian International Health Institute - the Nossal Institute

In the late nineties as the foundation Managing Director, Rhonda established the Australian International Health Institute - now the Nossal Institute in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Melbourne. During this time the Institute became the hub for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations efforts in child vaccination in Southeast Asia.

Victorian Health Promotion Foundation

In the late eighties, Rhonda established and for ten years was the foundation CEO of the Victorian Health Promotion Foundation (VicHealth). This was the first body in the world to use a dedicated tax on tobacco for innovative health promotion and was recognised by the World Health Organisation in 1996. As well as groundbreaking work in areas such as tobacco control, injury prevention, mental health promotion, food and nutrition, exercise and activity and sexual health, Dr

Galbally's work at VicHealth has left the legacy of a number of ongoing centres of excellence, which are still having a significant impact on the health of adolescents, indigenous people, people with disabilities, mothers and babies, older people and women.

International

In establishing VicHealth as a best practice model, (with the World Bank and the World Health Organization), Rhonda assisted the take-off of health promotion movements in South Africa, Korea, Switzerland, Hungary, Poland, Chile, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Philippines and Fiji. Rhonda led the 1996 Healthy Island project in Niue, Tuvalu, Kiribas and Western Samoa.

For 6 years – 1992-1998, Rhonda advised the Thai Government on the development of Thai Health – a statutory body using a levy on tobacco and alcohol tax for health promotion. Rhonda has recently been invited to advise Thai health on establishing a strategic organization like Our Community to strengthen Thailand's community organizations, as well as assisting in the roll out of the new billion dollar national upgrade of community health centres.

For five years Dr Galbally was a member of the integrated non communicable diseases task force for WHO Geneva and for 3 years a member of the WHO international task force on environmental factors in functioning and disability

Philanthropy

In the early eighties, as Executive Director of the Myer Foundation and Sidney Myer Foundation, Chair of Philanthropy Australia and for twenty years a trustee of the Reichstein Foundation Rhonda has helped direct large amounts of philanthropic funding into grass roots as well as larger non government organisations. She is now continuing this work as a member of the Australian Football League Foundation and the State Trustees Charitable Foundation.

Human Rights

Rhonda has always been a strong advocate for a 'rights' based approach to social justice. In 2005, she was a member of the four person expert Victorian Government Human Rights Committee reporting on the need for a Human Rights Bill for the Victoria. The Victorian Human Rights Charter recommended by the committee was passed in 2006.

Boards

Rhonda is currently Chair of the State Government's Disability Advisory Council, the Chair of the Federal Government's National People with Disabilities and Carers Council, a member of the panel to oversee the Productivity Commission feasibility study into a social insurance scheme for disability and chronic illness for Australia, the Chair the Royal Women's Hospital, Patron of Compassionate Friends and the National Disability and Carers Alliance.

Awards and Honours

- 1990, Dr Galbally was awarded an Order of Australia for services to the community.
- 1996 the World Health Organisation (Asia Pacific) medal for Tobacco or Health.
- 1998 the Award of the Latrobe University Degree Doctor of Science (honoris causa),
- 2001 the Centenary Medal in recognition of her service to the community
- 2006 the RMIT University Award of the Degree Doctor of Social Science (honoris causa),
- 2009 The Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Fellowship

Publications

Just Passions- the Personal is Political - PlutoPress 2004