

16/07

## Media Release

Friday 10 August 2007

### Universities Australia appoints new Chief Executive Officer

Universities Australia is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Glenn Withers AO as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Chair of Universities Australia, Professor Gerard Sutton, said Dr Withers has extensive experience working with government, industry, and the university sector.

"Dr Withers' wealth of academic knowledge together with his extensive experience working with State and Federal Governments and the business community will greatly benefit the organisation as it moves towards a greater focus on advocacy for higher education," Professor Sutton said.

"Working cooperatively with business and community organisations and State and Federal Governments, Dr Withers was influential in establishing the system of bonus points for immigration purposes for overseas students who had studied in Australia.

"He also has extensive experience working in Government in his previous positions at Deputy Secretary level in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and First Assistant Secretary, Commonwealth Department of Employment and Industrial Relations," Professor Sutton said.

For the past ten years, Dr Withers has been the Professor of Public Policy and Deputy Director, Crawford School of Economics and Government at the Australian National University and is a Professor at the Australian and New Zealand School of Government.

Dr Withers is delighted with his challenging appointment as Chief Executive Officer of Universities Australia.

"A dynamic university sector is essential for Australia. I relish a central role in enhancing the position of Australia's universities, a cause I passionately believe in," Dr Withers said.

Dr Withers graduated in Economics with First Class Honours from Monash University, and then studied in the United States of America where he obtained both a Masters and a Ph.D at Harvard University. He was also a Professor of Economics at La Trobe University.

Dr Withers was awarded an Order of Australia in 1992 for service to applied economics particularly in the areas of immigration and population research.

Dr Withers commences in the position in October, and Australia's universities look forward to working with him for the benefit of the Australian community.

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*See biography next page...*

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## Biography - Dr Glenn Withers AO

Ph.D Harvard University  
A.M Harvard University  
B.Ec (Hons 1) Monash University

In addition to his previous position as Professor of Public Policy at the Australian National University and Professor at the Australian and New Zealand School of Government, Dr Withers was very active in both the academic and broader government/community public policy arena.

Dr Withers held a number of visiting Professorial appointments which include Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge; the Free University Berlin; University of Potsdam; and Faculty of Economics and Commerce, University of Melbourne.

Dr Withers is an Officer, Order of Australia, Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences of Australia, a Frank Knox Fellow, Robert Gordon Menzies Scholar and Fulbright Scholar at Harvard University.

In addition to his academic career, Dr Withers has held a number of senior positions, including, President, Economic Society of Australia (ACT), State President, Committee for Economic Development of Australia, Vice-President, Institute of Public Administration of Australia, and Chair of the Melbourne International Festival of Choreography and Dance.

Dr Withers has chaired a number of formal government reviews and inquiries including the Stocktake on Progress of Microeconomic Reform; the Taskforce on Private Infrastructure Provision; Inquiry into Population Issues and Australia's future; and the Immigration Selection Systems Review.

He also has extensive experience working with private and community sector organisations, advising to organisations such as the Australian Capital Television, Business Council of Australia, Housing Industries Association, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Reserve Bank of Australia and Western Australian Newspapers Ltd.

During his career, Dr Withers has authored more than 150 formal publications and has had the responsibility for nearly 100 published government reports and 55 public consultancy reports.

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