

THE FRIENDS PRESENT

BEFORE THE BOUGH BREAKS Children in Contemporary Australia



Professor Fiona Stanley, Australian of the Year, 2003

This month, the Friends of the National Library present the annual Kenneth Myer Lecture. As most Friends would be aware, the Lecture is an opportunity for an eminent Australian to make a significant comment on a topic of their choice. Previous lecturers have included a former Prime Minister, a former State Governor, a Nobel Prize winner and individuals outstanding in the fields of theology, business, politics, academia and science.

This year, the Friends have the pleasure of presenting the very distinguished Professor Fiona Stanley, Australian of the Year in 2003. Professor Stanley heads two major organisations headquartered in Perth, Western Australia. She is the founding Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, a multi-disciplinary research facility that investigates the causes and prevention of major childhood diseases and disabilities. She is also the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth, a national organisation of researchers, practitioners and policy makers that has been established to improve the health and wellbeing of Australia's young people.

Born in Sydney in 1946, Fiona Stanley moved to Perth with her family

in 1956. She graduated in medicine at the University of Western Australia in 1970. Her clinical experience in hospitals and at the Aboriginal Clinic in East Perth sparked an interest in epidemiology and public health. She studied the areas extensively in the UK and USA over the next six years before returning to Perth to establish research programs at the University of Western Australia and the Health Department of Western Australia.

In 1990, Professor Stanley was one of the key driving forces behind the establishment of the Institute for Child Health Research as an innovative, multi-disciplinary centre of research excellence, and was appointed the founding Director. The Institute has forged an international reputation and is widely recognised for its comprehensive approach in bringing together clinical, laboratory and population health scientists to tackle the major issues in child health.

Professor Stanley's research work involves conducting and supervising studies in maternal and child health. It is her research interests that have formed the basis of her advocacy for Australia's children. In 2002, she was appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the new Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth. Her professional focus stems from an

alarming deterioration in key health indicators for children, and her aim is to secure a national commitment to an agenda to improve significantly the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

Professor Stanley was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 1996 and is a member of the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council. She has written three books, 25 book chapters, 40 major reports or monographs and had more than 200 papers published in refereed journals. Please book early to come and hear Professor Stanley speak about the health and social issues confronting Australia's children.

JAMES HALLIGAN
Executive Officer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2003

Kenneth Myer Lecture 2003

Professor Fiona Stanley, Australian of the Year in 2003, will give the Kenneth Myer Lecture *Before the Bough Breaks—Children in Contemporary Australia* on the topic of child health
Date: Thursday 24 July
Time: 6 pm
Venue: Theatre and Foyer
Admission by donation
Bookings essential on (02) 6262 1698, or email friends@nla.gov.au

For bookings, details of membership and subscriptions, contact:

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