



Professor Carolyn Evans, Vice Chancellor and President, Griffith University

Professor Carolyn Evans is Vice Chancellor and President of Griffith University, a role she has held since February 2019, leading one of Australia's fastest-growing and most progressive tertiary institutions, ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide.

In 2019, Carolyn was elected as a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia. She is the Chair of Universities Australia and has held various leadership roles, including Queensland Chair and national board member of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia from 2023-2025, President of the Australian Higher Education Industrial Association from 2022-2024, Chair of the Innovative Research Universities from 2021-2022 and board member of Open Universities Australia from 2019-2023. Currently, she is a board member of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission and a member of Chief Executive Women.

Before joining Griffith, Professor Evans was Deputy Vice Chancellor (Graduate and International) and Deputy Provost (2017-2018) at the University of Melbourne, and Dean and Harrison Moore Professor of Law, University of Melbourne Law School (2011-2017).

Professor Evans has degrees in Arts and Law from the University of Melbourne and a doctorate from Oxford University, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar and held a stipendiary lectureship for two years.

In 2010, Carolyn was awarded a Fulbright Senior Scholarship to allow her to travel as a Visiting Fellow to American and Emory Universities to examine questions of comparative religious freedom. She has also taught in the human rights summer school at European University Institute.

Throughout her career, Carolyn has promoted the importance of universities combining excellence in teaching and research with a commitment to social justice and inclusion.

Carolyn is the author of *Legal Protection of Religious Freedom in Australia* (Federation Press 2012), *Religious Freedom under the European Court of Human Rights* (OUP 2001) and co-author of *Australian Bills of Rights: The Law of the Victorian Charter and the ACT Human Rights Act* (LexisNexis 2008) and *Open Minds: Academic Freedom and Freedom of Speech in Australia* (Black Inc. 2021). She is co-editor of *Religion and International Law* (1999, Kluwer); *Mixed Blessings: Laws, Religions and Women's Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region* (2006 Martinus Nijhoff) and *Law and Religion in Historical and Theoretical Perspective* (CUP 2008).

She is an internationally recognised expert on religious freedom and the relationship between law and religion and has spoken on these topics in the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China,

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Greece, Vietnam, India, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Malaysia, Nepal and Australia. Her teaching was in the areas of public law, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law and human rights.

Professor Evans was appointed IRU Chair in January 2021-December 2022, a role that rotates among IRU vice chancellors each two years.