

MEDIA RELEASE



**Australian
Women Lawyers**

**Ros Croucher President of the Australian Law Reform Commission is awarded the
Australian Women Lawyers Award
Successful 5th National Australian Women Lawyers Conference
Amy Challans elected national President of Australian Women Lawyers for an historic
second term**

Australian Women Lawyers (AWL) is delighted to announce Ros Croucher as the second recipient of the Australian Women Lawyer Award sponsored by Gordon and Jackson. The Patron of AWL, The Chief Justice of the Family Court of Australia the Hon Diana Bryant AO QC, announced Ms Croucher as the winner at AWL's 5th National Conference gala dinner sponsored by Duncan Basheer Hannon on Saturday 4 October 2014 at the Adelaide Oval.

Professor Croucher is the President of the Australian Law Reform Commission and prior to this appointment had a distinguished career in academia including the first woman appointed Head of the Department of Law and interim Dean of Law at the University of Sydney and the first person externally appointed as Dean and Professor of Law at Macquarie university.

The presentation of the Gordon and Jackson AWL Award was one of the many highlights of the fifth AWL National Conference held in Adelaide from 3-5 October 2014.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia Chris Kourakis presented the key note speech at the conference Welcome Reception calling on further action to support the promotion and advancement of women in the profession in support of his progressive position published in the Advertiser on 12 April 2014.

Christine Nixon former Victorian Police Commissioner and Chair the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority delivered the conference keynote address on Saturday 4 October 2014 sharing her experiences in changing challenging and achieving as a woman in business and sharing her extensive insights into being a successful woman in a traditionally male dominated profession.

On Saturday evening Rabia Siddique inspired delegates and guests with her story of courage and determination talking about her life and experiences as a female lawyer in the British military and her landmark race and sex discrimination case against the UK Ministry of Defence.

The Conference program featured discussion panels on innovations in legal practice, how to build and retain your client base and surviving and thriving as a successful female practitioner. Other presentations explored the NARS report, marketing yourself, updates on social media, the trailblazing women in the law project and recent developments in expert evidence. The final day of the conference programme included a two part session on the outcome of the Women Lawyers of Western Australia Gender Bias in the Law report.

Following the conclusion of the Conference AWL's Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 5 October 2014 and Amy Challans was elected National President for an historic second term, the first AWL President to be elected for two terms.

Amy has been a Director of Australian Women Lawyers since 2010 and a member of Women Lawyers Association of SA and Law Society of SA Women Lawyers Committee a since 2006. Amy has worked for a number of key Agencies in Australia and the United Kingdom and has a Bachelor Arts from The Flinders University of South Australia, a Bachelor Laws from Adelaide Law School and was admitted to the Supreme Court of South Australia in 2002.

Upon her re-election as President Amy said: “It is a tremendous honour and privilege to be re-elected as President of Australian Women Lawyers for a second term. I look forward to actively pursuing a number of key policy matters over the next 12 months in particular the recommendations from the Law Council of Australia’s national attrition and re-engagement study.”

The incoming AWL Executive and other members of the AWL board are listed here:

<http://www.australianwomenlawyers.com.au/about-us/awl-board/>

The next AWL National Conference will be held in Perth in 2016.