

MEREDITH BURGMANN

The Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann studied at the University of Sydney in the sixties and seventies and was involved in political activity against the Vietnam War and Apartheid. She was also actively involved in the beginnings of the Women's movement and the early Environment movement. She was one of the leaders of the Stop the Springboks Campaign in 1971.



She did her Master of Arts at Sydney University in Foreign Policy and gained her Doctorate from Macquarie University in Environmental Activism and Industrial Relations (The Green Bans). She taught Industrial Relations and Politics at Macquarie University for 18 years and was active in the Academics' Union becoming the first woman President of the NSW Academics' Union (NTEU).

Dr Burgmann entered State Parliament in 1991 and became President of the NSW Legislative Council in 1999, a position she held until retirement in 2007. She is the longest serving female Presiding Officer in Australia.

Dr Burgmann has had a long interest in aid and development issues and has visited refugee camps and aid projects around the world especially in Rwanda, Western Sahara, Palestine, East Timor and Vietnam.

Dr Burgmann has written a book on Jack Munday and the Green Bans, "Green Bans Red Union, Environmental Activism and the NSW Builders Labourers Federation" and has just completed another book for Allen & Unwin entitled "A Thousand Terrible Things That Australian Men Have Said About Women". Dr Burgmann has also written extensively on Industrial Relations, in particular on pay equity and women in work situations. She has also written on the women's movement and Indigenous women.

She lives in the inner city with her son Paddy and her interests include cricket, footy (AFL) and Aboriginal art.