A close-up photograph of a woman with short, dark, curly hair. She is smiling broadly, showing her teeth, and looking off-camera to the right. She is wearing a denim jacket and large, silver hoop earrings. The background is a solid, vibrant blue.

# INTERNATIONAL **WOMEN'S DAY**

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# CELEBRATION

**Western Sydney University**  
**Thursday 5 March**

# Keynote Address

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## Professor Jennifer Westacott AC

Professor Jennifer Westacott AC is a prominent Australian business executive and public policy expert who has made significant contributions to various sectors, including public administration, education, and business.

Professor Westacott is the Chancellor of Western Sydney University, Special Advisor at KPMG and serves as a Non-Executive Director for ATCO Australia, Canada Utilities LTD and the Governance Board of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

She is Australia's Business Champion to Indonesia, Chair of the Bradfield Development Authority, Studio Schools of Australia, and Future Generation Global. She is also a Patron of The Pinnacle Foundation and a guardian of the Dor Foundation.

Until recently, Jennifer was a long-standing Non-Executive Director of Wesfarmers. Jennifer has previously held the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Business Council of Australia for the longest tenure in its history. She held senior roles at the Departmental Secretary level, in the New South Wales and Victorian governments, focusing on areas such as housing, urban planning, education and social policy. Jennifer is known for her advocacy on issues such as tax reform, regulatory efficiency, infrastructure development, and social inclusion and fairness.

In 2018, Jennifer was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia for her service to policy development and reform, cross-sector collaboration, equity, and business. In 2025, she was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia for her eminent service to business, to tertiary education, to the mental health sector, and to the community.

Jennifer holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University of New South Wales, a Graduate Certificate of Management from the Monash Mt Eliza Business School and is a Chevening Scholar from the London School of Economics. She also holds an Honorary Doctorate, (Honoris Causa) from the University of New South Wales.

# Judges

*Thank you to our judges who play an integral part in helping us recognise the women of Western Sydney.*

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## **Professor Azadeh Dastyari**

Director, Centre for Western Sydney  
Western Sydney University

Professor Azadeh (Az) Dastyari is the Director of the Centre for Western Sydney and a Professor of Human Rights Law at Western Sydney University. She leads place-based research, engagement, and advocacy that seeks to unlock the unlimited potential of Western Sydney, with a strong focus on challenging systemic inequality and amplifying community voices. Professor Dastyari has held academic appointments at Harvard Law School, Georgetown University, and the European University Institute, and her expertise is regularly sought by parliaments and United Nations bodies.



## **Professor Deborah Sweeney**

Provost  
Western Sydney University

Professor Deborah Sweeney is the Provost of Western Sydney University. She provides leadership and vision to achieve the University's strategic priorities for academic excellence across teaching and research domestically and globally including across the University's College, and international campuses. Ensuring the delivery of the University's strategic ambitions, Deborah is focused on excellence, impact and translation. She has oversight of the University's Faculties, Research Institutes, the College and Global Partnerships and Transnational Education. Deborah joined Western Sydney in 2009 and has more than 20 years' experience in research and research management. This includes her roles at Western as the College of Health and Science, Director of Research; Associate PVC Research (Health and Science); PVC Research and Innovation; DVC Research, Enterprise and International, and as the Senior Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Enterprise and Global.



## **Associate Professor Michelle Catanzaro**

Head of Discipline (Design & Animation), School of Arts  
Western Sydney University

Michelle Catanzaro is a creative director, researcher, and Head of Discipline (Design & Animation) in the School of Arts at Western Sydney University. Her current pursuits are informed by her formative years as a member of an all-girl punk rock band, live music photographer, and designer. Michelle's current practice focuses on creating space for young people to draw on creativity and visual language to express their cultural, political and social ideals. Specifically, Michelle is a CI on an ARC funded project titled New Possibilities: Student Climate Action and Democratic Renewal.

# Judges

*Thank you to our judges who play an integral part in helping us recognise the women of Western Sydney.*

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## **Aunty Fiona Towney**

Director of Indigenous Futures, Western Sydney University

Aunty Fiona Towney is a proud Wiradjuri woman from Central-West NSW. Aunt is the Director of Indigenous Futures at Western Sydney University. In this role, she enhances the high-level innovative approach of the Division of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Indigenous Leadership in relation to areas of communication excellence and Indigenous governance. Aunty Fiona also provides exceptional influencing skills in relation to engagement with internal and external stakeholders across multiple transformational projects, including the Indigenous Centre of Excellence. Aunt holds tertiary qualifications in Human Resource Management and Project Management. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, including her six grandchildren, playing golf and travelling nationally and internationally.



## **Anna Tsoutsa**

Principal  
Auburn Girls High School

Anna Tsoutsa is the Principal of Auburn Girls High School, a high-performing selective and comprehensive girls' secondary school. With a distinguished career spanning 37 years in education — including 11 years as Principal — Anna brings deep expertise, strategic leadership, and an unwavering commitment to student excellence. Under her leadership, Auburn Girls High School has twice been awarded Excellence Awards by the NSW Department of Education Secretary. Anna is deeply committed to expanding opportunities for young women to lead and thrive. She is currently partnering with Western Sydney University to establish the Harvey Norman Young Women's Leadership Academy, with Auburn Girls High School as the lead school — an initiative designed to empower the next generation of female leaders.



## **Professor Sarah Lewis**

Dean, School of Health Sciences  
Western Sydney University

Professor Sarah Lewis is the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Western Sydney University. She is a leading medical imaging academic, senior researcher, registered diagnostic radiographer and breast cancer survivor. Leading large teams of multi-disciplinary researchers, Sarah has over 150 publications in Q1 medical imaging/oncology publications and education publications. She has been awarded \$17 million AUD in funding since 2011, including \$5.6m as CIA in funding from the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health (DOH), NHMRC, National Breast Cancer Foundation, Cancer Institute NSW and as well as commission research from Bayer Radiology. Professor Lewis is the Director of the Breast Screen Reader Assessment Strategy (BREAST), funded by the DOH as an official training program supporting the Royal Australia and New Zealand College of Radiologists (RANZCR) in breast imaging.

*The Women of Western Sydney Awards honour extraordinary women and formally recognise their contributions to the development of the region.*

*The Awards showcase the strength and diversity of the women of the region and celebrate their significant contributions.*



# Woman of Western Sydney (Arts) Award 2026

*Recognising women who have made significant contributions to Western Sydney through leadership in the Arts sector.*

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**Louisa Chan**  
Nominee



**Jacqueline Homjik**  
Nominee



**Alexandria Halim**  
Nominee



**Sara Mansour**  
Nominee



**Leanne Tobin**  
Nominee

# Woman of Western Sydney (Community and Social Enterprise) Award 2026

*Recognising women who have made significant contributions to Western Sydney through their community and social enterprise.*

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**Abbey Bou Antoun**  
Nominee



**Tracey Alexakis**  
Nominee



**Jasmine Deol**  
Nominee



**Christine Erskine**  
Nominee



**Dr Cathryn Horvat**  
Nominee



**Kathy Karatasas**  
Nominee



**Antoninette Khalil**  
Nominee



**Sarah McMahon**  
Nominee



**Tahera Nassrat**  
Nominee

# Woman of Western Sydney (Community and Social Enterprise) Award 2026 (Continued)

*Recognising women who have made significant contributions to Western Sydney through their community and social enterprise.*

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**Christine Nassif**  
Nominee



**Dr Sera Yilmaz**  
Nominee



**Samara Post**  
Nominee

# Woman of Western Sydney (Indigenous Leadership) Award 2026

*Recognising contributions made to Western Sydney by Indigenous women in leadership.*

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**Libby Austin**  
Nominee



**Becky Chatfield**  
Nominee



**Dr Danièle Hromek**  
Nominee



**Kelsie King**  
Nominee



**Tania Sheperd**  
Nominee



**Kaye Price**  
Nominee



**Lowana Longbottom**  
Nominee

# Woman of Western Sydney (Sport) Award 2026

*Recognising women who have made significant contributions to Western Sydney through leadership in Sports.*

---



**Tatiana Beaumont**  
Nominee



**Martina Sevilla  
Chinchilla**  
Nominee



**Kylie Fitzpatrick**  
Nominee



**Mahalia Murphy**  
Nominee

# Woman of Western Sydney (STEM) Award 2026

*Recognising women who have made significant contributions to Western Sydney through their work in STEM and STEM related fields.*

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**Adriana Assey**  
Nominee



**Dr Cherylea Browne**  
Nominee



**Dr Belinda Chapman**  
Nominee



**Dr Mariam Darestani**  
Nominee



**Professor Olivia Mirza**  
Nominee



**Sarah Mullins**  
Nominee



**Heimy Molina**  
Nominee



**Haniya Syed**  
Nominee



**Anjali Sinha (Pictured) Shajjia Razi, Shabana Haque, Lorraine Peacey**  
Group Nomination

# Woman of Western Sydney (STEM) Award 2026 (Continued)

*Recognising women who have made significant contributions to Western Sydney through their work in STEM and STEM related fields.*

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**Professor Xiaoshu Zhu**

Nominee

# Young Woman of Western Sydney Award 2026

*Recognising contributions made to the Western Sydney community  
by women aged 18-28 years old.*

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**Amanda Essa**  
Nominee



**Gina Hamade**  
Nominee



**Hiro Kojo**  
Nominee



**Stephanie Bailey**  
Nominee



**Heimy Molina**  
Nominee



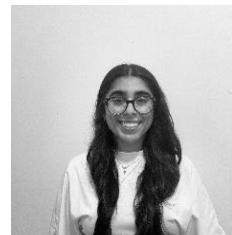
**Kathy Nguyen**  
Nominee



**Tatiana Beaumont**  
Nominee



**Haniya Syed**  
Nominee



**Mary Anne Yousef**  
Nominee

# Young Woman of Western Sydney Award 2026 (Continued)

*Recognising contributions made to the Western Sydney community  
by Women by women aged 18-28 years old.*

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**Shainse Jade O'Hare**  
Nominee

# WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY



## EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH EDUCATION

Western Sydney University is a global leader in sustainability, including gender equality, ranking #1 in the *Times Higher Education Impact Rankings* for four consecutive years (2022-2025).

We offer a range of scholarships and support programs specifically designed to assist women.

Your support can help remove financial barriers and provide life-changing programs and opportunities for women, striving to build a better future, to stay the course.



# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

## *Inspiring Leaders of the Future*

In 2024, through the generosity of Harvey Norman CEO Katie Page, Western Sydney University received a landmark philanthropic donation of \$7.9 million to establish the *Harvey Norman® Young Women's Leadership Academy Led by Katie Page*. The program, a first-of-its kind, will increase the social, economic and educational participation of young women in Western Sydney, with a pilot that has commenced at Auburn Girls High School.

Ms Page said this Australian-first in corporate philanthropy was motivated by the impact of her original Western Sydney University scholarship donation of \$300,000.

*"In the almost 10 years of scholarship support for tertiary students at Western Sydney University, we have witnessed the transformative power of access to education. What began as thirteen scholarships for women from refugee and disadvantaged backgrounds has expanded to over 100 student scholarships. Many of the recipients are now graduates."*

*– Katie Page*



*Ms Katie Page, CEO Harvey Norman with students at Auburn Girls High School at the launch of the Harvey Norman® Leadership Academy.*

**Every dollar helps to create opportunities,  
break down barriers, and empower women through education.**

*Thank you for your generosity and commitment  
to empowering women at Western Sydney University.*



