

Macquarie University Alumni Reunion Day



MACQUARIE
University

Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM



Dr Cathy Foley completed her term as Australia's ninth Chief Scientist on 31 December 2024. Before that role, she had an extensive career at Australia's national science agency, the CSIRO, including as the agency's Chief Scientist. She is a graduate of Macquarie University, completing her BSc (Hons) Dip. Ed. (1980) and PhD (1985), and in 2022, Macquarie also awarded her a Doctor of Science (honoris causa).

Dr Foley is an internationally recognised physicist with major research achievements in superconductors and sensors, which lead to the development of the LANDTEM sensor system to locate valuable deposits of minerals deep underground.

Dr Foley's scientific excellence and influential leadership have been recognised with numerous awards and fellowships, including election to the Australian Academy of Science in 2020, and an Order of Australia for service to research science and to the advancement of women in physics. She received the Australian Institute of Physics Medal for Outstanding Service to Physics in 2016. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering (2008) and an honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics (2019).

Dr Foley is an inspiration to women in STEM across the globe and focuses strongly on equality and diversity in the science sector.