

CEO - DR JUDITH M. SLOCOMBE

Judith has extensive experience in business as an entrepreneur, small and medium business owner, and senior manager within a large corporate.

Judith is passionate about giving back to the community and it was this passion that saw her bring her strong leadership ability to The Alannah and Madeline Foundation, a charity with the goal of keeping children safe from violence.

This children's charity is a natural fit for the mother of nine as she sets about applying her business skills to make a difference by caring for children who are victims of violence and who are often from disadvantaged situations where they suffer abuse, neglect or poverty. The Alannah and Madeline Foundation offers practical assistance helping children rebuild their lives and regain hope. The Foundation has developed programs aimed at preventing violence in the lives of children. One of the most common forms of violence is bullying and The Alannah and Madeline Foundation's Better Buddies Framework teaches children values such as caring, respect, accepting difference; all of which reduce bullying behaviours.

Judith graduated as a veterinarian from the University of Melbourne, and after practising in Australia and overseas commenced a small veterinary pathology business from home. She went on to create a completely new business model which redefined veterinary diagnostics in Australia and she grew her small business into the largest veterinary diagnostic group in Australasia.

In 2001 Judith sold her business to the Gribbles Group. She graduated with an MBA from the Melbourne Business School in June 2002. Judith's transition from small business owner to senior corporate manager was complete when she was appointed Group General Manager, Pathology heading up the major human pathology division of the Gribbles Group, with a budget of over \$200 million, 2000 employees and with laboratories throughout Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, India and Singapore.

Throughout her career, Judith's work has been recognised by numerous prestigious awards, among them Australia's most highly regarded award for women in business, the Telstra Australian Business Woman of the Year. In 2003 she was awarded a centenary medal for service to Australian society in business leadership.

Judith also holds numerous directorships, including the Open Universities Australia, Agriculture Victoria Services, and South East Water Limited, is Chairwoman of the Animal Welfare League of Victoria (Lord Smith Animal Hospital) and is a recent past director of the Australian Red Cross Blood Service and Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, (VicHealth).

Judith says she finds it a joy and a privilege working with a committed and dedicated team in The Alannah and Madeline Foundation who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of children, as well as hundreds of volunteers who help with the programs and with organising a multitude of fund-raising events – the most renowned of which is the Starry Starry Night gala charity ball, held at the Palladium at Crown each year.

"I am blessed with a beautiful family and have the joy of watching my children as they grow to be happy and confident individuals ready to step out into the world. Children who experience violence in their lives don't have this opportunity. If we show them a world that cares, one that treats them with respect and shows empathy, these children can learn to trust and embrace the future"

Judith's vision for The Alannah and Madeline Foundation is **for all children to have a safe and happy childhood free from violence.**