

The Hon. Jeff Kennett AC

Former Chairman Beyond Blue, Former Premier of Victoria

The Hon Jeffrey Kennett AC was the Premier of Victoria from 1992-1999 and a Member of the Victorian Parliament for 23 years.

Mr. Kennett is the founding chairman of Beyond Blue, a national organisation that promotes good mental health and seeks to dismantle the stigma surrounding depression and anxiety. He is also Chairman of The Torch, a program assisting incarcerated Indigenous men and women.

Mr. Kennett is influential in corporate Australia, as the chairman of several organisations including Open Windows Australia and CT Management Group.

Drawing on his unique and diverse experience, Mr. Kennett talks to audiences on a wide range of topics from government, to business, social issues and Australia's future as a nation.

Mr Kennett was an Officer in the Royal Australian Regiment, serving at home and overseas. He was elected Leader of the Opposition in October 1982 and under his leadership, the Victorian Coalition was elected to Government on October 3, 1992, with two-to-one majorities in both Houses of Parliament – a position unparalleled in almost 140 years of responsible State Government in Victoria. In the Government's first term, Mr Kennett held the positions of Premier and Minister for Ethnic Affairs.

The Coalition was returned to office at the March 30, 1996, election with a net gain in representation across both Houses of Parliament.

Mr Kennett continued as Premier, as well as serving as Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for the Arts. He headed the Government's peak industry organisations – the Ministerial Industry Council, Premier's Business Round Table, Victorian Communications and Multimedia Task Force and Food Victoria, and chaired the Science, Engineering and Technology Task Force.

Under Mr. Kennett's Premiership, Victoria earned the reputation as Australia's most reformist government. They implemented extensive reforms of the Victorian public service, led Australia in privatisation of public authorities, reduced the State's indebtedness from \$33bn to \$5.5bn, reinvigorated its economy and reinstated confidence among the Victorian community. On April 22, 1998, Victoria regained its AAA credit rating from international ratings agency, Standard and Poor's.



In November 1999, Mr Kennett resigned from the Victorian Parliament after 23 years service to pursue a corporate career.

Mr Kennett holds several influential positions on boards. He has been appointed a Director of Equity Trustees Limited and a Director of Seven West Media Ltd, as Chairman of Open Windows Australia Proprietary Limited, Chairman of CT Management Group Pty Ltd, Chairman of LEDified Lighting Corporation Pty Ltd and Chairman of Amtek Corporation Pty Ltd.

Mr Kennett is Patron of The Royal District Nursing Service and Sovereign Hill Ballarat and associated with many other community organisations. He has been a Member of the Singapore Tourism Advisory Board 2000-2006; President of the Hawthorn Football Club 2005-2011 and Chairman of Australian Seniors Finance Ltd 2004-2007.

In 2005 Mr Kennett was awarded the Companion of the Order of Australia.

Mr Kennett was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Business (honoris causa) by Ballarat University in 2000 and an Honorary Doctorate of Laws (honoris causa) by Deakin University in 2014.

The Hon. Jeffrey Kennett AC speaks about:

While comfortable on a wide range of topics, Mr Kennett's key areas of interest are:

- Australia in the 21st Century and Beyond; our future, potential growth areas, the shape of society
- The challenges ahead for Australia as a nation
- The strategic importance of Australia's participation in the Asian region beyond East Timor
- The role of Government in leading debate on social issues

Client testimonials

“ Jeff was sensational in his delivery of the Keynote address. Delegates were very excited at the prospect of hearing Jeff speak, particularly in such challenging times. He was visionary, urbane, spoke superbly on topic and was a pleasure to work with.

- City of Melbourne

“ Thank you from the team at CRT for joining us at the recent National Conference in Perth. Your presentation inspired much debate and interest amongst our delegates. Our delegates gave you very high marks in our post-Conference survey and we very much appreciate your contribution to the success of our Conference.

- *Combined Rural Traders Pty Ltd*

“ A wonderful and engaging speaker, Mr Kennett speaks with passion and warmth.

- *Excellent ProVision Eyecare Pty Ltd*

“ Captivated the audience and communicated his message on leadership extremely well.

- *John Danks & Son Pty Ltd*

“ As usual, no notes - brilliant speaker. It was great way to finish the day.

- *E-Matrix Training*

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