



Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

10 August 2022

Honorary Appointment - General Division - August 2022

The Governor-General is pleased to announce the following appointments:

**HONORARY COMPANION (AC) IN THE
GENERAL DIVISION**

Mr Charles Francis FEENEY, United States
For eminent service and contributions to
philanthropy, particularly to Australia's health,
research and higher education sectors.

**HONORARY MEMBER (AM) IN THE
GENERAL DIVISION**

Mr Amit DASGUPTA, India
For service to the Australia-India bilateral
relationship.

By His Excellency's command

Paul Singer MVO

Official Secretary to the Governor-General

APPOINTED AN HONORARY COMPANION
IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AC)

Mr Charles FEENEY, United States

For eminent service and contributions to philanthropy, particularly to Australia's health, research and higher education sectors.

Mr Charles 'Chuck' Feeney is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and founder of The Atlantic Philanthropies. Since the early 1980s, The Atlantic Philanthropies has donated or invested around \$AUD 12 billion worldwide to support health and social projects, focusing on education, science, health care, children and youth, ageing, human rights and reconciliation.

Mr Feeney's philosophy of "giving while living" has changed the Australian culture of philanthropy, and his visionary approach to supporting medical research has seen a marked shift in the paradigm of giving. Mr Feeney has not only donated his own wealth, but did so through encouraging governments at different levels to match that investment in scientific and medical research infrastructure.

In this way, Mr Feeney's work via co-contributions has leveraged additional support from government and the private sector for over 20 health, medical research and university institutions in Australia. This approach has ensured a magnified contribution to society that will endure for many generations, alongside the ground breaking scientific discoveries he has supported.

Mr Feeney's efforts have also contributed to the diversification of Australia's economy, helping to prepare our country for future waves of economic growth as global investment flows turn from traditional industries to newer ones. Australia's standing in international scientific and health circles is much greater for Mr Feeney's philanthropy.

It is of particular mention that Mr Feeney had wished to do this work without acknowledgement, and it was not until 1996 when it was revealed that he was the head of one of the world's top private philanthropies.

On the basis of his eminent philanthropic service and contributions to the development of the Australian health, research and higher education sectors, and to the betterment of humanity-at-large, Mr Charles Feeney has been recognised with an appointment as an Honorary Companion in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AC).

APPOINTED AN HONORARY MEMBER
IN THE GENERAL DIVISION OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA (AM)

Mr Amit DASGUPTA, India

For service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship.

Mr Amit Dasgupta is a tireless promoter of Australia-India relations, challenging the nations' governments and people to realise the underlying potential of a stronger bilateral relationship.

As Consul-General of India to Sydney from 2009 to 2012, Mr Dasgupta was a staunch advocate for the principles of multiculturalism, which underpins contemporary Australia. During this period, attacks against Indian students threatened Australia's international reputation. Mr Dasgupta's personal efforts diffused the tensions and reassured the Indian diaspora.

Mr Dasgupta was instrumental in establishing the Australia India Youth Dialogue. Now in its second decade the Dialogue is a permanent fixture of the bilateral relationship, and fosters connections between Australian and Indian young people. Mr Dasgupta continues to advance relations between the two countries as a Distinguished Fellow of the Australia India Institute, a Senior Fellow at the Society for Policy Studies, and as the Inaugural Country Director of the University of New South Wales since 2016.

Mr Amit Dasgupta's deep and longstanding service to the Australia-India bilateral relationship is commendable and worthy of formal national recognition through his appointment as an Honorary Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM).