



BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS

Background

Liz was the highest-ranking woman in the Australian Defence Force and later served at the highest level in the Australian Public Service as the Secretary of the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs. Liz has held many 'first woman' roles, working and succeeding in predominantly male environments. Liz has faced and overcome adversity, career challenges and obstacles and is committed to supporting others achieve success.

Liz had 31 years of distinguished military service in the Australian Army, including becoming the first woman in Army's history to be promoted to the rank of Major General. During her military career, Liz served in the fields of aviation logistics, logistics planning, strategic planning and leading transformational change.

Liz is an accomplished leader with over 44 years of service. She is a passionate advocate for service above self, diversity and mentoring future leaders.

Liz brings lived experience and commitment to values-based leadership and leading by example. She recognises the importance of values, authenticity and resilience when facing challenges and adversity.

Liz promotes the importance of having a vision and maintaining purpose when leading and driving cultural change. She is committed to investing in leaders to be the best they can be and appreciates the importance of teams in delivering results through people to achieve organisational success.

Liz's experience includes appointments with the:

- Australian Defence Force**
- Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (now Home Affairs)**
- Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care**
- Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs**
- RSL Life Care**



Elizabeth (Liz) Cosson AM CSC

Liz recently joined Executive Leadership Australia and brings a distinguished career of leadership, mentoring, coaching and lived experience of over 44 years of service.

Tertiary Qualifications

Master of Arts (Strategic Studies), Bachelor of Social Science (Human Resource Development, Australian Institute of Company Directors (Affiliate))

Honours and Awards

- Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia – AM
- Conspicuous Service Cross – CSC
- ACT Award for Excellence in Women's Leadership
- Women in Defence Hall of Fame – Inductee
- Southern Cross University Alumni of the Year

Career History

ADF: Various appointments in the fields of supply, logistics, strategy, planning and senior leadership.

APS: Various appointments in the fields of corporate operations, budget, transformation and senior leadership.

Boards: Non-Executive Director and Independent member of various private and public sector Boards/Committees.

Liz is committed to supporting Australia's future leaders and is an enthusiastic advocate of investing in leadership learning and development.