



## **2023 AAA Management Accounting Section Lifetime Contribution to Management Accounting Award**

**Margaret Abernathy,  
University of Melbourne**

Margaret Abernathy received her PhD from La Trobe University 1989 and has spent most of her career at the University of Melbourne where she is Emerita Professor, Sir Douglas Copland Chair of Commerce, Department of Accounting. Dr. Abernathy has been remarkably productive throughout her career both with respect to her own research as well as her considerable contributions to the academic community. As of the date this summary was written, Dr. Abernathy:

- Has published 44 articles in academic journals (five in 2022!), numerous practitioner articles, along with several books and book chapters all in the healthcare area.
- Has nearly 9,000 citations of her research per Google Scholar.
- Is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> all time for management accounting research productivity (all methods) according to the BYU rankings – 2<sup>nd</sup> in the past six years!
- Has received (with co-investigators) research grants totaling \$2.8 million.
- Established the Melbourne Centre for Corporate Governance and Regulation.
- Served as Dean of the Faculty of Business & Economics at the University of Melbourne for 8 years.
- Has had visiting appointments at 8 universities in Canada, Europe and the United Kingdom.
- Served as an Editor for three accounting journals including her current role at *Management Accounting Research*.
- Is currently on the editorial board of 5 accounting journals.

We are by far not the first group to recognize Dr. Abernathy's outstanding accomplishments. She has accumulated an amazing list of rewards, honors and distinctions over the past 15 years. In chronological order she was:

- The 2008 Telstra Business Woman of the Year (Community and Government Sector) in recognition of outstanding leadership contribution to higher education.
- Elected as a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia (2012).
- Inducted into the Australian Accounting Hall of Fame in 2018.
- Appointed a Member of the Order of Australia 2019 in recognition of her nationwide contribution to education and research in accounting.
- The recipient of the Lifetime Award for Exceptional Distinction in Research, Faculty of Business and Economics, U. of Melbourne (2020).

Dr. Abernethy's nomination package was endorsed by 25 leading management accounting scholars from around the world, including several past winners of this award. Her nominators described her many contributions to management accounting scholarship and her capacity to support and foster the development of doctoral students and junior faculty. The following are a few quotes from Dr. Abernethy's nomination package:

- *Her early work was seminal in the field of health care administration but was also highly influential in the way in which we understand management control in professional bureaucracies. In her more recent work, she has again addressed pressing contemporary issues related to Identification with the firm, CEO power and compensation.*
- *She is an outstanding role model and supporter of junior faculty and an exceptional supervisor whose responsiveness to her students is virtually unparalleled among senior academics. Fourteen of her publications have been jointly published with her PhD students and the vast majority of her publications involve junior co-authors.*
- *I could not be more grateful for what Maggie Abernethy has done to promote and advance management accounting scholarship globally throughout her career. At this time, I cannot think of another individual who has collectively worked with, encouraged, and given back to the management accounting academy in the way that Maggie Abernethy has over more than 35 years.*

Dr Abernethy is most deserving of receiving our section's most prestigious award that recognizes her remarkable and lasting contributions to management accounting scholarship for over 30 years.