



Dr Chris Back was sworn into the Senate of the Australian Parliament in March 2009. He graduated from the School of Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland and is the first veterinarian to sit in the Australian Senate.

Senator Back has had a varied career including government and private veterinary practice before joining the Faculty of Curtin University at the Muresk Institute of Agriculture and subsequently the University of California, Davis.

In government, he served for ten years, first as CEO of the Rottnest Island Authority and then CEO of the Bush Fires Service of Western Australia.

He then returned to the private sector and purchased a state-wide fuel distributorship in Tasmania. This incorporated retail fuel and convenience stores, bulk fuel storage and transport as well as fuel and lubes marketing.

From 2000 to 2007, Dr Back was CEO of a Western Australian-based company providing high level IT services to fuel majors and military clients in SE Asia, India and the Middle East.

Before entering the Senate, he also held a senior executive position in a multinational company servicing the offshore oil & gas sectors.

Dr Back's career includes highly developed skills in:

- Effective leadership and management of people
- Management of government and private sector institutions across several countries
- Risk and opportunity management
- Financial accountability
- Corporate governance
- Coordination of volunteers working in a range of urban and regional environments

Dr Back has served on the boards of rural and metropolitan schools, hospitals, sporting and service clubs. He is a keen yachtsman and, when time permits, enjoys nothing more than camping off the beaten track with his wife and family members.

Chris actively participates on the following Senate committees:

- Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee;
- Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee;
- Economics Committee;
- Senate Select Committee on Agricultural and Related Industries; and the new
- Senate Select Committee on Reform of the Australian Federation.