

MEDIA RELEASE

The Australian National University's (ANU) Professor Heather Booth is the first woman to be appointed Professor of Demography at an Australian university.

Professor Booth, an Associate Investigator for the ARC Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research (CEPAR), is an expert in mortality, longevity and ageing and will also become the School of Demography's first female Director of Research.

CEPAR Director, Professor John Piggott, says it is an outstanding achievement for one of the world's foremost demographers.

CEPAR is a collaboration between universities, government and industry based at the University of New South Wales Kensington, and is a national authority on ageing.

Professor Booth is a powerful advocate for women's career success and has set up clearer pathways for promotion in her School.

"I think that women don't put themselves forward for promotion, and if they do and don't succeed, they take it very badly," said Professor Booth.

"It is at that stage that women need the most support. Men seem to be able to recover from the blow, as it were, much easier, and are more likely to challenge it at the time," she said.

She began her career in the UK before moving to the South Pacific to work in population and development, and later migrated to Australia where she began working in mortality research at the Australian National University in the 1990s. She now leads the Group on Longevity, Ageing and Mortality.

Professor Booth is best known for her work in forecasting how long people will live.

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