

AUDETTE EXEL AO

Chief Executive Officer, Adara Advisors Pty. Limited
Chief Executive Officer, Adara Partners (Australia) Pty. Limited
Founder and Chair, Adara Development



BIOGRAPHY

Audette Exel is the founder of the Adara Group. The Adara Group has two quite different parts, but one united purpose – to support people in poverty. The first part is an international development organisation called Adara Development. The second part is two Australia-based corporate advisory businesses, Adara Advisors and Adara Partners.

Audette is Chief Executive Officer of Adara's two Australian businesses, Adara Advisors Pty. Limited and Adara Partners (Australia) Pty. Limited, which exist for the sole purpose of delivering financial services expertise at the highest levels to clients, with fees generated on transactions going to directly benefit people living in extreme poverty. Since inception to December 2016, the businesses have donated more than **AU\$10 million** to Adara Development's core support costs, allowing 100% of all other donations received to go directly to support project-related costs.

Audette is also the founder and Chair of Adara Development, an international non-government organisation focussed on improving health and education for women, children and communities living in poverty. Adara has expertise in maternal, newborn and child health; and remote community development and reach tens of thousands of people living in poverty each year. Adara's work has two pillars – best practice service, and knowledge sharing.

Audette is also a Non-Executive Director of Suncorp Group Limited, an ASX 20 company. For 18 years (until 2017) Audette was the Vice Chairman of the Board of Steamship Mutual Underwriting Association Trustee (Bermuda) Limited, one of the world's largest Protection and Indemnity clubs for the shipping industry.

Before establishing Adara, Audette was Managing Director of one of Bermuda's three Banks, Bermuda Commercial Bank. She is one of the youngest women in the world to have run a publicly-traded bank. During 1995 and 1996, Audette was also Chairman of the Bermuda Stock Exchange. From 1999 to 2005, Audette was on the Board of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, Bermuda's central financial services regulator, and was Chair of its Investment Committee.

Prior to joining Bermuda Commercial Bank, Audette practised as a lawyer specialising in international finance. She began her career with Allen, Allen and Hemsley in Sydney, Australia before joining the English firm of Linklaters & Paines, in their Hong Kong office. She is called to the Bars of New South Wales, Australia, England and Wales and Bermuda.

In 1995, Audette was elected a Global Leader for Tomorrow by The World Economic Forum. She was the recipient of the Economic Justice and Community Impact Award from the Young Presidents Organisation Social Enterprise Networks in 2010. In 2012, Audette won the Telstra 2012 NSW Commonwealth Bank Business Owner Award, and was the winner of the 2012 NSW Telstra Business Woman of the Year Award. She is also one of The Australian Financial Review's 100 Women of Influence in Australia in 2012. In 2013, Audette was awarded an honorary Order of Australia for "service to humanity through the establishment of the Adara Group to provide specialist care to women and children in Uganda and Nepal" and was recognised by Forbes as a "Hero of Philanthropy" in 2014. In 2015, Audette was inducted into the Australian Businesswomen's Hall of Fame. She was a recipient of a World Class New Zealander Award in 2015. Audette was named Australia's 2016 'Leading Philanthropist' by Philanthropy Australia, and in 2017, was admitted to the New Zealand Hall of Fame for Women Entrepreneurs.