



H.E. Marion Derckx

Ambassador of the Netherlands to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Nauru and the Solomon Islands

Her Excellency Mrs. Marion Derckx was appointed as the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Australia, with (designated) accreditations in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Nauru and the Solomon Islands in 2019. Previously, she held the role of H.M.'s Ambassador in the Republic of the Philippines with accreditations to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau.

Prior to these engagements, Ambassador Derckx was responsible for Dutch development co-operation with Non-State Actors presiding over a five-hundred million dollar (AUD) annual budget (2014-2018). At the Human Resources Department (2007-2011) she was responsible for the staffing of the Dutch Diplomatic Missions (3000 staff).

Ambassador Derckx began her diplomatic career with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1989 as a Desk Officer for Guinea Bissau and Cape Verde.

She was then promoted to the Delegation of the European Commission in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (Political Affairs & Health). Here she also served as an election observer of the Tanzania national elections and subsequently was invited to coordinate the international observation process of the national elections in Yemen as an EU-representative under the UN umbrella.

A posting at the Netherlands Embassy in Washington D.C. (Press and Cultural Affairs) followed and a subsequent secondment to the Delegation of the European Commission, in Dhaka, Bangladesh (Democracy Issues & Human Rights). In her return to MFA headquarters, as First Secretary to the Human Resources Department, she was instrumental in establishing the Ministry's Leadership Program.

She is married to retired Ambassador Jozef Laurens IJzermans, who, in addition to his diplomatic career is a recognized global expert on water management. Together, they have four children and five grandchildren. In her spare time, the Ambassador enjoy as a classical guitarist and singer.

Ambassador Derckx has strong family connections in Australia. Members of Mrs. Derckx' maternal Van den Brink family migrated to Australia in the 1950s. As a result, the Ambassador has over fifty relatives to call on.

Ambassador Derckx has been a Board member of several schools and institutions across the Netherlands and abroad. She has also been active in the local government of Wageningen, the town she calls home since her graduation at her alma mater, the Wageningen University.