

Gordon Bradbery Biography

The Reverend Gordon Alfred Bradbery AM, born on 8 May 1951, is the lord mayor of Wollongong and a minister of the Uniting Church, though he has not been active in ministry since 2011. Bradbery's early years were spent in Tamworth before he moved to Sydney, where he attended Barnardos Children's Home in Normanhurst from ages 10 to 16. After leaving school at sixteen, Bradbery initially trained as a laboratory technician before dedicating his career to the Uniting Church as a youth and children's welfare worker in 1971. Ordained into the Uniting Church ministry in 1985, he has since served for 25 years, with 15 of those at the Wollongong Mission of the Uniting Church in Crown St, Wollongong, affectionately known as "The Church on the Mall." In addition to his ministerial duties, Bradbery was also responsible for the Wollongong Community Care Centre, which offers welfare programs for the disadvantaged. Bradbery's specialist areas include community development, social justice programs, and trauma and bereavement counselling, reflecting his deep commitment to supporting individuals and fostering community resilience.

Apart from his ministerial duties, Bradbery has been a lifelong learner, earning bachelor's degrees in psychology, sociology, and divinity from the University of Sydney. His extensive community service includes serving as Chairperson of Lifeline South Coast for 15 years, Police Chaplain in the Wollongong region for 14 years, and a Rural Fire Service Chaplain, for which he received a 10-year service medal. He has been recognised for his outstanding contributions with several awards, including the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in 1996 for his community service and support during bushfire crises and the Rotary International's Paul Harris Fellowship Medal in both 1996 and 2009.

Bradbery's dedication to the community extends to his roles in interfaith dialogue with Muslim and Buddhist communities and as a mental health advocate. He has also received the Police Commissioner's Citation for his exceptional welfare assistance during the Waterfall train disaster. Throughout his career, Bradbery has worked tirelessly to support various organisations, campaigns, and individuals, making a significant impact on the lives of many in his community.