

Honorary Awards

Peter Strachan (deceased)

Chancellor, I have the honour of presenting the life and academic credentials of the late Peter Strachan, who council has determined should be awarded a posthumous honorary Master of Arts degree.

'Strachy', as he was known, worked at the Commonwealth Employment Service in Alice Springs and his work was instrumental in us acquiring national funding for the first pilot programs in the country, which later became known as VET in Schools.

Peter became an expert in labour market employment programs, particularly Indigenous programs. He helped people in remote parts of Australia get the training they needed to be job-ready.

Peter was next employed at Charles Darwin University, where he helped ensure that CDU's delivery of Vocational Education and Training programs was aligned with labour market opportunities in the regions while also meeting the aspirations of Aboriginal Elders and Communities.

Peter was well-connected with Indigenous organisations and was able to broker CDU training programs into Central Australian communities.

While at CDU, Peter began to augment his deep practical experience and encyclopaedic knowledge of regional and remote labour markets by reading more widely and developing a more theoretical perspective.

This led to his formal enrolment with the University in a Higher Degree by Research master program.

It was while writing his thesis on Aboriginal labour markets in Central Australia that Strachy tragically developed leukaemia.

This meant he had to move to Adelaide for treatment. With his illness in remission, he returned to CDU to continue working and to finish his thesis.

Strachy was just about there. All he had to do was complete the incorporation of ethnographic theory—about the meaning of stories—into his thesis, but he suffered a recurrence and his life and his work were cut short.

His professors, colleagues, mentors and friends are all confident that Mr Strachan would have completed his Masters successfully, had the leukaemia not returned.

Chancellor

Peter Strachan was and remains an inspiration, and is awarded the honorary title of Master of Arts.