

Chancellor,

It is my great honour to present Professor Michael Christie, who has been awarded the honorary title of Emeritus Professor.

For more than three decades, Professor Christie has served the University and the people of the Northern Territory with distinction, working in deep partnership with Yolŋu Aboriginal elders and other Aboriginal knowledge authorities.

Trained as a linguist, with a PhD from the University of Queensland, he began his career as a teacher-linguist in remote Aboriginal bilingual education programs. There, he helped shape classroom practice and policy, publishing widely on education and philosophy.

In 1994, he joined what was then the Northern Territory University (NTU), where he worked with Yolŋu elders to establish the Yolŋu Studies program - the first of its kind in any Australian university. The program won the Prime Minister's Award for Australia's Best University Teaching Program in 2005, and continues to thrive today.

Professor Christie has consistently brought Indigenous and Western knowledge systems together to address issues of health, housing, education, local decision making, emerging technologies and natural resource management.

He founded the Yolŋu Aboriginal Consultants Initiative in 2006, and for over 20 years has led the Ground Up research team, a nationally recognised model of collaborative research grounded in Indigenous governance and knowledge practices.

His major contributions include the Living Archive of Aboriginal Languages, preserving more than 1,000 books in over 20 Aboriginal languages, and the award-winning *Sharing the True Stories* project, which transformed approaches to health communication.

His leadership has been recognised with multiple national and international awards for research excellence, and in 2011 he was named Northern Territory Australian of the Year.

Chancellor,

In recognition of his extraordinary contribution to Indigenous-led research, education and knowledge exchange, particularly

through sustained collaboration with Yolngu elders and their languages over three decades, Charles Darwin University Council awards Professor Michael Christie the Honorary title of Emeritus Professor of the University.