

Chancellor,

I have the honour to present to you Deborah Fracaro AM who Council has determined should be awarded the honorary title of *Companion of the University*.

Deborah Fracaro is a very well-known Territorian who participates in community life to the fullest. She is probably best known professionally for her role at Airducter, her family owned company, where she has been the Managing Director/Executive General Manager/CEO since 1997.

Within the Darwin community, Deborah has led an active engagement. She was a non-executive director of the Larrakia Trade Training Centre, Panel Member of Contractor Accreditation Limited; member of the Northern Territory committee of the Australian Institute of Company Directors for over 10 years and was chairman for 2, Life Member of the Government House Foundation; sponsor, donor and member of the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT Foundation; member of the Australian Indonesia Business Council Ltd; and a member of Indigenous Business Australia. In addition to these activities, there are countless hours of effort devoted to assisting many local charities and community groups to achieve their aims and objectives.

Today we are recognising Deborah for her contribution to the advancement of the Charles Darwin University Foundation through her tenure as Chair. The Charles Darwin University Foundation was established in 1993 to enhance the relationship between the University and the wider Northern Territory community and has continued to grow from a small base. From 2015 to 2017 Deborah was the Chairman of the Foundation and during this time, worked with the Board to develop strong relationships, expand membership and increase donations to the University. Individual and corporate memberships have expanded and the level of donations has increased significantly.

Deborah, through her leadership, has assisted with the fostering of valuable and enduring relationships with members of the Northern Territory community. Today, the Foundation provides an increasing range of scholarships and prizes to support students and to recognise their academic achievements across a diverse range of endeavours - this would not have been possible without the fostering of community and business relationships and the commitment of generous donors.

Under Deborah's leadership, the Foundation conducted the highly successful inaugural Charles Darwin Black Tie Dinner. The dinner timed to occur on the birthday of Charles Darwin, 12 February was envisaged to be a refreshed way to engage with the Northern Territory community, recognise the scientific legacy of Charles Darwin and the celebrate the contribution of the University. The inaugural dinner held in February 2016 was highly successful with the Grand

Ballroom at SkyCity filled to capacity. A significant amount of money was raised through this event to support students through new scholarships and prizes.

The dinner is now in its fourth year, draws heavily from colossal energy, drive and determination of Deborah Fracaro in organising and staging that inaugural dinner in 2016.

The Foundation that we have today; the generous support it receives from the Northern Territory community; and the benefit it generates for the University broadly, owes much to the efforts and commitment of Deborah Fracaro.

Deborah was made a Member of the Order of Australia as part of the 2019 Australia Day Honours List for her significant service to business, to Indigenous training initiatives, and to the community of the Northern Territory.

Chancellor

In recognition of her outstanding contribution and dedication to advancement of the Charles Darwin University Foundation, I present to you for the award of the honorary title of *Companion of the University*, Mrs Deborah Fracaro AM.