

CHANCELLOR,

I have the honour to present to you Professor Judith Ann Whitworth AC, who Council has determined should be awarded the Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa.

Professor Whitworth can only be described as a truly great Australian who has led a remarkable and distinguished life in the service of others through medical research. Today she is recognised internationally as an expert in the areas of kidney function and blood pressure research.

Following a childhood interrupted by Polio, Judith went on to study medicine at the University of Melbourne and then joined the Royal Melbourne Hospital as a resident medical officer in 1968. Judith went on to complete the requirements for the Doctor of Medicine in 1974, the Doctor of Philosophy in 1978 and the Doctor of Science in 1992 all from the University of Melbourne.

Over a career spanning almost 50 years Professor Whitworth held positions in various hospitals, medical research institutes and universities across Australia, in France and the United Kingdom. Judith has been active in other areas of service including being the President of the Australian Society of Medical Research, Chairman of the National Health and Medical Research Council, President of the High Blood Pressure Research Council of Australia and a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Advisory Committee on Health Research. Judith played an important role on the first Council of the new Charles Darwin University in 2003, bringing critical experience in research administration to discussions.

Early in her career Professor Whitworth undertook a term as a registrar in renal medicine at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Judith is quoted as saying "by chance I discovered that I enjoyed it, so I became a kidney doctor". Since that time she has dedicated her medical career to research in the broad area of high blood pressure. High blood pressure can lead to many complications in people with diabetes and kidney disease right through to difficulties during pregnancy. As we know many Indigenous Australian here in the Northern Territory experience some of the highest rates of kidney disease in the world.

Professor Whitworth's early research on protein restriction and converting enzymes inhibition in chronic renal failure has helped delay or prevent countless people going on renal dialysis. Her work also contributed to the development of international guidelines for the treatment of hypertension.

Professor Whitworth has received many awards for her work including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians Medal, the Howard Florey Medal and a Winthrop Travelling Fellowship. The highest honour coming in 2001 when she was made a Companion of the Order of Australia for service to the advancement of academic medicine and a major contributor to research policy and medical research administration in Australia and internationally.

CHANCELLOR

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the advancement of academic medicine and championing of Indigenous health issues I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters Honoris Causa – Professor Judith Ann Whitworth AC.