

Chancellor, I have the honour to present to you Professor Helen Garnett PSM who Council has determined should be made a Doctor of the University.

Professor Garnett completed her Bachelor of Science Honours at the University of Sydney, before accepting a position as a Research Officer at the Poliomyelitis Research Foundation in Johannesburg. During this time she completed her Doctor of Philosophy through the University of London and the University of Wales and subsequently worked as a lecturer, senior lecturer, Professor and Department head at the University of Witwatersrand, also in Johannesburg. She returned to Australia in 1987 to work as Professor and Head of Department of Biology at the University of Wollongong.

In 1992, Professor Garnett assumed the position of Executive Director of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation – ANTSO - and remained in this position for over 9 years. ANTSO oversees the operations of the Lucas Heights Nuclear Reactor, and Professor Garnett was instrumental in gaining extra funding for the \$300 million replacement research reactor – in addition, she was an Australian representative on the UN International Atomic Energy Agency.

Professor Garnett was appointed as the inaugural Vice-Chancellor of the new Charles Darwin University in 2003, and her leadership was instrumental in helping to establish Northern Territory University, Centralian College, Katherine Rural College and Menzies School of Health Research as the new single University. She was committed to building areas of strength in research, and to ensuring such research was relevant to the environment and social livelihood of the Northern Territory. In addition, she was a passionate advocate for enabling access for all Territorians, with a special emphasis on the Indigenous population.

Under Professor Garnett's leadership the University moved to become a viable and sustainable institution serving the post-secondary education needs of the Northern Territory and beyond. During this period, CDU was the fastest growing University in Australia, and this growth has continued, built on the foundations she laid, to a position where we rank 31st in the world for institutions under the age of 50, and are in the top 2% of all universities. This is an extraordinary achievement for a remote, regional Australian university.

Professor Garnett was active within the community and also pursued the development of the social fabric of the Northern Territory through her commitment to the arts. The relationship between the University and the Darwin Symphony Orchestra flourished and the University Art Museum was envisaged and realised by Professor Garnett as a cultural asset not just for the University but for the wider Northern Territory community. Working with the Yothu Yindi Foundation, Professor Garnett helped to establish a strong relationship with the Garma Festival. Under her leadership the University assisted YYF in preparing the Key Forum at

each festival, and helped Garma to grow to become an important national event focusing on Indigenous culture and knowledge.

Professor Garnett left the University in 2008, but has retained a close connection with CDU, and was made an Emeritus Professor in 2009. After leaving CDU, she became the Chair of the Australian Biosecurity Intelligence Network, and has held numerous Board positions since then, including current ones as Director of Developing East Arnhem, the Chair of Delta Electricity and the Chair of the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics.

In 2003, Professor was awarded the Centenary Medal for contributions to nuclear science and technology, and in 2004, she was awarded the Public Service Medal for her leadership of ANTSO. She is a fellow of both the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering.

Chancellor, In recognition of her outstanding commitment to the development and advancement of tertiary education in the Northern Territory through her distinguished leadership of Charles Darwin University, Professor Helen Garnett has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the degree of Doctor of the University, Honoris Causa