

## Professor Marcia Langton AO

Thursday 11 May 2023, Hawke Centre Event

<b>Officiator:</b>	Hon John Hill, Deputy Chancellor
<b>Award being conferred:</b>	Doctor of the University (DUinv)
<b>Citation delivered by:</b>	Professor Marnie Hughes-Warrington AO Deputy Vice Chancellor: Research & Enterprise

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Professor Marcia Langton AO is of the Yiman and Bidjara nations, and widely recognised as a major figure in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights and advocacy. Born in Brisbane, Marcia became politically active at a young age, partly in response to the discrimination she encountered in the Queensland education system.

After a period travelling the world, she relocated to Sydney, working with the Aboriginal Medical Service, and during this period, co-founded the Black Women's Action group and co-published the newspaper, Koori-Bina.

In 1977, Marcia was elected general secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, relocating to Canberra, where she also studied at the Australian National University, becoming the first Aboriginal Honours Graduate in Anthropology.

During her time at ANU, Marcia worked as a consultant on Customary Law with the Australian Law Reform Commission and became History Research Officer at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

Marcia spent five years as a senior anthropologist at the Central Land Council in Alice Springs, before being appointed Head of the Aboriginal Issues Unit of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody in 1989, writing the report 'Too Much Sorry Business'.

She was a member of the Aboriginal negotiating panel for the passage of the Native Title Act through the Federal Parliament in 1993, and in the same year, her extensive work in the field led to her receiving membership to the Order of Australia.

In 1995, Marcia moved into full-time academia, becoming Ranger Chair of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies at Northern Territory University.

In 2000, she was granted an audience with the late Queen Elizabeth *as part of a delegation* to discuss *the crown's unfinished business in Australia*, and also commenced as the Foundation Chair of Australian Indigenous Studies at the University of Melbourne, a position she continues in today.

In 2010 she delivered the Mabo Lecture, *Native Title, Poverty and Economic Development*; in 2011 she was a member of the Expert Panel on Constitutional Recognition of Indigenous Australians; in 2012 she delivered the ABC Boyer lectures, *The Quiet Revolution: Indigenous People and the Resources Boom*.

Marcia is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia, a Fellow of Trinity College, Melbourne and an Honorary Fellow of Emmanuel College at the University of Queensland. In 2016 she was honoured as a University of Melbourne Redmond Barry Distinguished Professor, and in further recognition of her place as one of Australia's most respected Aboriginal Academics, in 2017 was appointed as the first Associate Provost at the University of Melbourne.

In 2019, Marcia was appointed as co-chair to the Senior Advisory Body of the design process for a permanent First Nations advisory body to parliament, and throughout that process, has continued to be a strong public advocate for the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

On behalf of the University of South Australia, I confer on you, Marcia Lynne Langton, the honorary award of Doctor of the University.