

**Citation for Michael Robb Hickinbotham BEc, LLB (Hons)
Thursday 18 April, 2019 at 3:00pm**

Officiator: Ms Pauline Carr, Chancellor

Award being conferred: Doctor of the University (DUniv)

Citation delivered by: Professor Joanne Cys, Pro Vice Chancellor Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences.

Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit. It is my pleasure to present Michael Robb Hickinbotham for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.

Michael Hickinbotham is the Managing Director of the Hickinbotham Group, the largest and longest established building and development group in South Australia. It has constructed over 40,000 homes and more than 3000 people, directly and indirectly. It is also one of the largest private companies in South Australia and owns a number of market leading home building brands and associated brands, including 'Hickinbotham Group', 'Statesmen Homes', 'the SA Housing Centre', as well as 'Keystart Finance', 'Subdivision Solutions' and 'Hickinbotham Invest'.

Mr Hickinbotham has always had a strong interest in entrepreneurial ventures that create value. An example of this is his lead involvement in the establishment of the Paringa vineyard in South Australia's Riverland that he developed in the mid-1990s, not long after he returned to work in South Australia. At almost 1000 acres at its completion, the Paringa vineyard was one of the largest and most profitable vineyards in Australia. Grapes from this vineyard were sourced for and underwrote a number of highly rated wine brands that were exported to Europe, Asia and the United States in large quantities.

He has recently started the Australian Distilling Company, which makes premium, artisan gin.

He also has a strong interest in innovation, education and community building and, in response to the South Australian government's inability to fund public schools in a highly constrained capital environment in the mid 1990s, pioneered the

establishment of Woodend School, the first privately owned public school in Australia and, one of the first in the world. This school was delivered in record time and received national and international attention.

Mr Hickinbotham also established Australia's, and one of the world's, first joint ecumenical Anglican Catholic Schools at Andrews Farm in the north of Adelaide. This school also received national and international attention and is the second largest school in South Australia.

He funds educational scholarships for children from high needs families, and supports many cultural, sporting and community groups and charities.

Prior to joining the Hickinbotham Group in the mid-1990s, Michael was a solicitor at the Melbourne office of national law firm Blake Dawson Waldron (now Ashurst) where he specialised in corporate and commercial law.

He is currently a member of the board of the Urban Development Institute of Australia's South Australian division. He is a former Chairman of the Australian Population Institute of Australia in South Australia and a former board member of Family Business Australia's South Australian division as well as a member of the Economic Development Board of South Australia which was the principal economic adviser to the Premier of South Australia.

Mr Hickinbotham was awarded a Centenary Medal for service to the Australian building industry and the community.

Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Mr Michael Robb Hickinbotham for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.