

Citation Andrew Robert Pridham AO

Tuesday 27 September 2022 at 12:30pm

Officiator: Ms Pauline Carr, Chancellor

Award being conferred: Doctor of the University (DUniv)

Citation delivered by: Professor David Lloyd, Vice Chancellor and President

Chancellor, the University of South Australia confers the Honorary Award 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 Andrew Robert Pridham AO for the honorary award of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.

Leading investment banker, Mr Andrew Pridham AO, is the Group Vice Chairman of MA Financial Group.

Adelaide born and educated, Andrew completed his Bachelor of Applied Science in Property Resource Management at UniSA, graduating in 1988, but “through happenstance” found himself in investment banking, specialising in property. His rise was meteoric. He moved to Sydney and went on to be appointed by global investment bank UBS as Managing Director and Head of Investment Banking Australasia before turning 30. He later filled senior positions for UBS based in London and Singapore.

In 2002 Andrew returned to Australia and retired. However after a short period he was coaxed back into investment banking, by clients asking him to assist them. He founded his own investment banking boutique in 2002 and following its quick success he sold the business to JPMorgan in 2004, where he became its Head of Investment Banking and ultimately Executive Chairman of Investment Banking.

In 2009 he co-founded MA Financial Group which was initially a 50-50 joint venture between New York Stock Exchange listed Moelis & Company and its Australian executives.

A passionate supporter of the AFL, Andrew joined the Sydney Swans Board in 2002, and assumed the role of Chairman from the outgoing Richard Colless in December 2013. He is also Deputy Chairman of the Sydney Swans Foundation.

His involvement at the Sydney Swans gave him the opportunity to develop a deeper respect and understanding of Indigenous Australians and he has been vocal about his determination to assist in any way he can to enhance their prospects for a life of dignity, success and happiness.

In October 2016, a \$5 million gift from the Pridham Foundation was made to the University to support the construction of its Great Hall -now called Pridham Hall - where we celebrate all our achievements, including yours today. Andrew's gift was largest single private donation made in UniSA's history.

Recognising the importance of the Pridham philanthropic gift, the then state Government also awarded \$1m for two perpetual scholarships at UniSA - the *Elite Athletes International Excellence Scholarship* for athletes competing at the highest level in their field, and the Adam Goodes Michael O'Loughlin, GO Aboriginal Sporting Excellence Scholarship for Aboriginal students interested in studying a sports and health science degree program.

Andrew has been described as inspirational; a fantastic example of everything a UniSA graduate could be. He is enterprising, has used all of his talents to his utmost, and is always mindful of how he can use his success to make a positive difference to others.

In the 2019 Australia Day Honours Andrew Pridham was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for "distinguished service to the investment banking and asset management sector, to sporting groups, and to philanthropy".

Chancellor: On behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Andrew Robert Pridham AO for the honorary award of Doctor of the University, in recognition of his distinguished service to the community.