

## **Professor Bruce King**

Pro Chancellor, the University of South Australia confers the honorary title of Emeritus Professor upon retired academic staff holding the title of Professor who have given distinguished service to the University.

Bruce King has made a significant contribution to education over his working life. He was educated in South Australia and after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Adelaide in 1970, he completed educational qualifications and taught at Elizabeth High School. He was awarded a Masters of Arts from Flinders University in 1988 for his research on Academic Planning and Course Design in Higher Education.

In higher education, Bruce has demonstrated his ability to be an educational innovator through the significant leadership positions he has held. In 1984 Bruce became the Director, Distance Education at the South Australian College of Advanced Education. He transformed a unit which was not well regarded in its host organisation into a nationally regarded centre and identified as a model of quality practice within the University.

It was during this time that a major capital development was realised and resulted in the Distance Education Centre building on the Underdale Campus of the University of South Australia, now known as the Flexible Learning Centre.

In 1994, Bruce moved to Sydney and took up the position of Director of the Southern Sydney Institute of Technical & Further Education. In this role he significantly revised the management structure and was responsible for introducing curriculum management by teaching staff and a significantly rationalised course provision on an Institute-wide basis across previously competing colleges.

For the past nine years Bruce has held the position of Director of the Flexible Learning Centre. During this time he has directed a unit which has had responsibility for:

- an internally-developed online teaching and learning environment for the University, UniSAnet
- the development of a range of online tools for student support (*Learning Connection*)
- student evaluation of courses and teaching,
- recording of achievement of the University's Graduate Qualities
- the construction of survey instruments, assignment submission and tracking; and
- career services.

Undoubtedly Bruce's national and international reputation has been developed through his work in Distance Education. Bruce was the first in Australia to bring a focus upon the professional development of distance educators. With colleagues he established the first postgraduate courses of distance educators which involved the accreditation of the same course structure at Deakin University.

The form of collaboration he developed at this time was at least ten years ahead of the times and extended beyond Australia with involvement from British Open University staff. Evidence for his international standing can be found from his involvement in numerous International Conferences and his consultancy work for a number of organizations.

It is also evident from his editorial positions with the *Journal of Open Learning* and the *Journal of Studies in Learning, Evaluation, Innovation and Development*. He has co-authored three books on distance education and made a significant contribution to online learning and distance education through the publication of a number of book chapters and refereed journal articles.

Bruce's contributions to the University have been extensive and have brought national and international recognition to the University more broadly. His drive to pioneer a curriculum framework built around Graduate Qualities and a flexible delivery has been very important in positioning the University.

He has also played a pivotal role in promoting the delivery of University courses through Open Universities Australia. He has provided expert leadership of a large unit that has encompassed many different facets – academic staff development, student learning and general counselling, careers service, on-line system support for academic delivery, and the Open Universities interface. This large group has been managed and led in an effective and efficient manner, with a constant view to the strategic direction of the University as a whole.

Bruce has given a total of nearly 20 years service to the University at a senior level and has made a significant contribution academically and professionally to distance education at national and international levels.

Pro Chancellor, I present Professor Bruce King for the honorary title of Emeritus Professor.