

# Citation for Professor Marjory Anne Ebbeck

Graduation: Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009, 10:30am



**Officiator:** Alice McCleary

**Award recipient:** Professor Marjory Anne Ebbeck  
PhD, M Ed (Admin), MA, Grad Dip TESOL, TITC

**Award being conferred:** Emeritus Professor Award

**Citation delivered by:** Professor Pal Ahluwalia  
BA (Adv), MA, PhD, FASSA

**Deputy 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 this institution. It is my pleasure to present to you Professor Marjory Anne Ebbeck for the title of 'Professor Emeritus' in recognition of such service.**

Professor Ebbeck began her career at the University as a Senior Lecturer at the Murray Park College of Advanced Education in 1976, one of the University's antecedent institutions.

Since that time she has held significant, long-term leadership positions within the University, including Head of School of Education for 7 years and Dean of Campus for 3 years. She was appointed as Professor of Early Childhood in 1990.

Professor Ebbeck has represented UniSA as a consultant, teaching fellow and researcher in many universities both nationally and internationally. She has held visiting professorships in London, Thailand, Brunei, Hong Kong, the United States, Canada and Finland.

In 1998, in response to a request by UNICEF, Professor Ebbeck was nominated by the foremost early childhood professional association *Early Childhood Australia* as an expert to make a "needs" analysis of the Early Childhood Education workforce in Mauritius. UNICEF invited her to work with the Mauritian Ministry of Women to develop an Early Childhood Education Policy Statement which subsequently was placed on the UNESCO website as an exemplary policy.

Professor Ebbeck's work with Islamic Universities has also been significant. Over a two year period she worked with the Universiti Brunei Darussalam on the development of a BA in Early Childhood. She is currently the external evaluator for early childhood programs in the University of Malaya.

Professor Ebbeck has been an excellent international ambassador for UniSA in many contexts. Indeed the first "transnational" program that the University embarked upon occurred under her leadership whilst Dean of the Magill campus and became one of the University's strongest and most enduring international relationships.

Professor Ebbeck contributed greatly to the establishment of the successful early childhood programs in Singapore and Hong Kong. The Singapore program commenced as a small intake of some 28 students but over the last 10 years it has grown to be one of the most popular. At the degree level, UniSA has graduated over 400 students, 40 % of whom completed a *with honours*

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program. The Ministry of Education has acknowledged the significant influence UniSA graduates have had a on the early childhood profession in Singapore.

Professor Ebbeck has been the recipient of multiple research grants both nationally and internationally. Indeed, she is a highly accomplished researcher and, for example, her 2004 co-authored text book became an essential text in early childhood programs in universities in Australia and has also been used in Finland, Iceland, Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand.

In teaching, she has been recognised through several teaching excellence awards, including most recently in 2008. Marjory has excelled in her role as principal supervisor for over 70 Master's projects/theses, and 22 PhD completions, three of whom will have their awards conferred today.

In summary, Professor Ebbeck's far-reaching and respected scholarship has made a valuable contribution to the University and to the wider, international Early Childhood Education profession.

Professor Ebbeck retired as Professor of Early Childhood Education in the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences at the end of 2008.

**Deputy Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia I am pleased to present Professor Marjory Anne Ebbeck to you for the honorary title of 'Emeritus Professor', in recognition of her significant contribution to early childhood teaching and curriculum development.**