

Eric Granger citation

Eric Granger has a career that spans over thirty years in marketing and retail with a distinguished record of community service. Eric is currently state manager of Mutual Community, South Australia's largest private health provider, a position he has held for the past six years.

Mutual Community has been a long term supporter of the University of South Australia and shared a commitment to maximizing the opportunity for those from disadvantaged backgrounds to access higher education. Through Eric's commitment, Mutual Community have assisted the university's alumni program provide career seminars to more than 500 UniSA students, and also more than 400 elderly South Australians have benefited from sponsorship of the university's successful ageing seminars.

But from initial sponsorship arrangements and scholarship provision Eric's personal commitment has seen the relationship develop into a valued partnership aimed at furthering the opportunity of higher education.

Eric is well known for his community work. The innovative MC2 (Mcsquared) program that involves a team of high profile individuals and celebrities assisting as masters of ceremonies, with Mutual Community's support, the charity work of various organizations is one example of such activity.

Eric is involved in the Pickard Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Childhood Cancer Association, In2Life (youth self harm) organization and is Chairman of the South Australian committee of the Smith Family.

It is in the last capacity that Eric has been instrumental in bringing together the University of South Australia and the Smith Family to collaborate on the successful *Learning for Life* program. UniSA is the first university, and to this point only university, to have a formal memorandum of understanding with the Smith Family, which has led the two organizations to collaborate on the use of facilities and fundraising in aid of the more than 2,000 students receiving support through this program in this state.

This collaborative activity has led, for example, to the creation of 9 corporate supported transition scholarships with a total value of nearly \$100,000 that are awarded to *Learning for Life* students who attend UniSA. Mutual Community has itself provided transition grant funding for a further 19 students from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds who study in health sciences programs.

Eric has been a generous contributor to the university's growth. He has given freely of his time, knowledge, experience and personal relationships to assist the university in developing its own fundraising and corporate partnerships.

Chancellor it is my great pleasure, on behalf of the University of South Australia, to present to you, Eric Granger, for the title of 'fellow of the University of South Australia'.