

## **Mr Ian Hardy Citation**

Ian Hardy is Chief Executive Officer of Helping Hand Aged Care and his significant impact on the aged care industry in Australia is well recognised. However, his involvement in the aged care industry came about quite unexpectedly.

Ian studied Commerce at Melbourne University, and in parallel studied classical organ, harpsichord and piano, eventually giving many solo performances around Australia and becoming an ABC recording artist. His musical talents led to an offer, in 1971, to study at the Paris Conservatoire as a student of the great French teacher Marie Claire Alain. However, just before he left for Paris, the ABC made him an offer he could not refuse and a 17 year career with the ABC followed. During this time Ian was involved in studio production, managed the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, and managed ABC Tasmania. He was inaugural manager of ABC Northern Territory, and from 1986 to 1990, Head of ABC Classical FM.

In 1990 Ian was offered, and declined, a position at the ABC in Sydney. At the same time, and quite unexpectedly given his total lack of experience in the field, Ian was offered the position of General Manager of “the Helping Hand Centre” as Helping Hand Aged Care was then called. Aged care in South Australia, and nationally, can be thankful that Ian Hardy took the leap into the unknown and accepted that offer.

Under Ian’s leadership, Helping Hand Aged Care has grown fourfold and now employs 1100 people, providing services to 8,000 clients a year in metropolitan and regional South Australia. Helping Hand Aged Care was the first organisation to articulate and pioneer (through an \$8 million purpose built facility in Adelaide’s northern suburbs) the principle that older people in residential care should not be moved from wing to wing of a facility or from organisation to organisation in order for them to receive appropriate care as their needs increased. This pioneering work led directly to the Commonwealth Aged Care Act of 1997, which enshrined “Ageing-in-Place” as a principle of care which is now accepted practice throughout the \$5 billion per year residential aged care sector in Australia.

In 1999 Ian was appointed President of the national aged care peak body Aged and Community Services Australia for a term of two years. He has presented papers at many conferences and forums in all states of Australia and in Spain, Singapore and New Zealand and has been a member of many federal and state policy and review bodies including

- The South Australian Ministerial Advisory Board on Ageing and
- The State Disability Advisory Board.

His current memberships include

- The Implementation Task Force for the Federal Minister for Ageing
- The Australian Government's Community Care Review and
- The Boards of the Australian Centre for Community Ageing, the Advanced Community Care Association, and the Repatriation General Hospital.

Ian is Deputy Chair of the Bone Growth Research Foundation and, although no longer performing, he sustains his musical interests as Chairman of Co-Opera, an Adelaide -based touring opera company.

Ian's involvement with the University of South Australia has been as CEO of one of the founding members of the Australian Centre for Community Ageing, a unique joint venture between Helping Hand Aged Care, UniSA, TAFE, Delfin Lend Lease and the Centre for Ageing Studies. He chairs the Board of the joint venture.

In addition, his organisation has been involved in UniSA research projects, including ARC projects, with Professor Julianne Cheek, Associate Professor Lorraine Sheppard, and Associate Professor Jim Warren, all of which have contributed significantly to the understanding of issues impacting on successful ageing and provision of services to older people.

In 2003 Ian Hardy was awarded a Centenary Medal "for outstanding service to aged care initiatives" and in 2004 he received the Aged and Community Services Award for an individual "who has significantly changed and improved the quality of services to older Australians."

With the number of Australians aged over 65 years likely to double and reach 4.2 million by 2022, the need to establish models for healthy ageing has become increasingly relevant. Ian Hardy has significantly contributed to the innovative thinking and initiatives needed to meet the challenges brought about by this dramatic demographic change, and continues to do so.

Chancellor, it is my great pleasure, on behalf of the University of South Australia, to present to you, Mr Ian Hardy, for the Honorary Award of 'fellow of the University of South Australia' in recognition of his national contribution to the aged care industry.