

Graduation Ceremony, April 3rd, 2000.

Conferral of Honorary Degree: Doctor of the University

Dr. Lyndsay Genevieve CONNORS

Introduction by Professor Kym L Adey

Chancellor, today we honour Dr. Lyndsay Genevieve Connors in recognition of her sustained contribution to the advancement of educational opportunity for all Australians, and her extraordinary and selfless commitment to public service. Her involvement has been remarkable for its diversity, its rigour and its impact.

Dr. Connors commenced her career in 1968 as a freelance journalist and education writer for a variety of papers including the National Times, the Age, and the Canberra Times. She combined this over the next fifteen years with work as a high school English teacher, as member of the National Committee on English teaching, an Information Officer with the Australian Council of State Schools Organisation, and as a member of the ACT Schools Authority.

From 1983-88 Dr. Connors was a full-time member of the Commonwealth Schools Commission, and in that capacity, Chair of the Curriculum Development Council. She was Acting Chair of the Commission in 1986. From 1988-91 Dr. Connors was Chair of the Schools Council of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training. She was a member of the Board during this period, and its Acting Chair in 1991. She was also Deputy Convenor of the Women's Employment, Education and Training Advisory Group, and Chair of the Non-government Schools Funding Review Committee.

Throughout the nineties Dr. Connors variously held positions as Convenor of the National Review Panel for the National Schools Project; Board member of the Australian Council for Education Research; Member of the NSW Ministerial Advisory Committee on Teacher Education and the Quality of Teaching; Deputy Chair of the Board of the Open Learning Technology Corporation; Board member of the Australian Children's Television Foundation; and, Deputy Chair of the Board of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. The latter two references offer some brief insight into Dr. Connors' significant commitment to public broadcasting.

Throughout most of the last decade Dr. Connors has been employed with the NSW Department of Education and Training. She has held positions as Director of Schools for Port Jackson; Director of Specific Focus Programs; Director of Equity

Policy; and Director of Higher Education. She has recently left the Department and will this week commence as Chair of the Review of Public Schooling in Victoria.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is but a snap shot of an extraordinary career which is far from over. It is a career that has been dedicated to policy development and its implementation throughout Australia. Most notably it has been a career devoted to the advancement of quality education for all.

It is a career that can be tracked from involvement in preschool societies, parents' and citizens' associations, teaching, policy development, curriculum development, administration, and overseas delegations in association with the US Information Services, the United Nations and the OECD. Throughout all of this Dr. Connors has also found time to publish, jointly and individually, a variety of major works focusing primarily on the teaching profession, schooling, and the needs of those too often not sufficiently recognised by our education system.

Throughout Dr. Connors' career she has been a forthright supporter of the importance of public education and the rights of all Australians to access it without concern for their social background, their wealth, their gender or their race. Australia needs advocates for the importance of our public education system. It has found one in Dr. Connors, and she serves as a role model for all of us.

Dr. Connors is as personable as she is able, she is a rare and generous spirit who has helped shape our schools, our educational thinking and our society. Above all else Dr. Connors has been, and remains, a force for a fairer and more just Australia. Her example should be a reminder to all of us that we hold this country in trust for future generations, and that we must work to reconcile differences and build opportunity for all without fear or favour.

It is fitting that the University of South Australia should acknowledge Dr. Connors today. She stands for, and models, the values upon which this University was founded.

Chancellor, I now present Dr. Lyndsay Genevieve Connors for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University.