

HONOURABLE MIKE RANN Citation

Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Doctorate Degree to a recipient in recognition of distinction by the person in public service or service to the University, or in recognition of distinguished contribution by the person in a field of academic endeavour.

The Honourable Michael David Rann is the Premier of South Australia.

Mike has always taken a strong interest in universities. He joined the Techsearch Management Committee of the South Australian Institute of Technology in 1986, resigning in 1990 when he was appointed as a Minister in the new Labor Government. He was a key member of the Committee during that period, which saw Techsearch undergo a rapid phase of expansion from an annual revenue base of \$2M in 1986 to over \$7M in 1990. The work of Techsearch and its Committee at the SA Institute of Technology help to catapult the new University of South Australia into a pre-eminent position as a University with a strong focus on working with industry and the community, creating and applying knowledge.

Mike was a Council Member of SAIT from 1987-1989, and a member of UniSA's Council from May 1994 – December 1996.

Most significantly, he was the State Minister responsible for the legislation that established our University. He has been an advocate, a supporter and a critical friend to this University. He has a very strong desire for Adelaide to become a University city, acting as an international beacon for undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as for visiting scholars and major national and international industry. I believe firmly that the University of South Australia will play a major role in this activity. This University is a major provider of undergraduate education for overseas students and has very strong international research collaborations.

Mike moved to Adelaide from New Zealand in 1977 and was elected to Parliament as the Member for Briggs in 1985. In December 1989, he became Minister for Employment and Further Education, Minister of Youth Affairs, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Minister assisting Ethnic Affairs.

Early in his life, spurred by stories of his great grandfather, he had wanted to be a policeman. He was well primed, for one night in his Salisbury home in 1992, Mike lay in bed, sensed someone's presence in his room, and woke to discover two male burglars. One stood armed with a beer bottle; and in the arms of the other was Mike's VCR. Downstairs were his son and daughter. "I was, at that stage, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs", he says, "and I grabbed a spear that had been given to me. I managed to get both of them (the burglars) out of the house". Our Premier is therefore a man of many talents.

Chancellor, I present Mike Rann for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University.