

**Citation for Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik AO, Ed.D Harvard, Ed.M Harvard, Ass. Dip S.W. S.A. Institute of Technology
Wednesday 29 March, 2017 at 10:30am**

Officiator: Mr Terry Evans

Award recipient: Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin Sallik AO

Award being conferred: Honorary Doctor of the University (DUniv)

Citation delivered by: Professor Denise Meredyth
Pro Vice Chancellor Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences

Pro Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service, or a field of academic endeavour or artistic pursuit. It is my pleasure to present Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin Sallik AO for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.

Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik is a proud Djaru (JAR ROO) woman from the Kimberley region of Western Australia and one of the great advocates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander education. She was the first Indigenous Australian to work in the higher education sector, and the first Indigenous woman to gain a Doctorate from Harvard University.

In 1975 she relinquished her successful nursing career of 17 years to embark on a higher education journey, structuring her career around overcoming the effects of social and political disadvantage of Indigenous Australians through higher education.

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She has worked as an academic in South Australia, the Northern Territory and New South Wales and has been a visiting professor at several overseas universities. She has delivered papers and keynote addresses at conferences in the USA, England, Scotland, Germany, Norway, Mexico, New Zealand and Brazil. Professor Bin-Sallik is also an alumnus and former staff member of this University and its two antecedent institutions.

On retirement from Charles Darwin University in 2008, she was made Emeritus Professor for her distinguished academic service, outstanding contribution to the advancement of Indigenous education and commitment to promoting Aboriginal cultures and heritage.

In 2001 she was awarded a Centenary of Federation Medal for contributions to Indigenous Higher Education in Australia. That same year she was awarded a Museum of Australia Medal for her tireless contribution to the National Museum in Canberra. Earlier this year she became an Officer of the Order of Australia for her distinguished service to tertiary education as an academic, author and administrator, particularly in the area of Indigenous studies and culture and as a role model and mentor.

Professor Bin-Sallik has made a major contribution to advancing Indigenous education through being involved in government, university and community advisory review groups which have subsequently influenced education and equity policies for Indigenous Australians. She was a signatory to the Report of the Committee of Review of Aboriginal Employment and training programs in

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1985, which was a forerunner for the Australian government's major policy initiative in Aboriginal employment, training and education.

Professor Bin-Sallik was also a co-commissioner for the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's inquiry into the separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, which produced the *Bringing Them Home* report in 1997. This report brought about the National Apology to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations and made way for other Australian groups, who too were forcibly removed from their families, to have their voices heard.

Pro Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Emeritus Professor MaryAnn Bin-Sallik for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.