

**Chancellor, the University of South Australia confers 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 to you Commissioner Grant Stevens APM LEM for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his distinguished service to the public sector and safety of South Australia.**

For more than 40 years, Commissioner Grant Stevens has exemplified outstanding public service during his career with South Australia Police, culminating in his appointment as Commissioner in 2015. His leadership has been marked by a steadfast commitment to community safety, justice and reform, particularly in areas including organised crime, child protection, domestic violence prevention and public health emergency response.

His service was vital during the COVID-19 pandemic when he acted as South Australia's State Emergency Coordinator. In this role, Commissioner Stevens was a trusted public figure, guiding the state through an unprecedented global crisis. His calm and consistent presence, combined with strong decision-making and community engagement, ensured the effective implementation of public health measures that directly contributed to South Australia's safety.

Throughout his career, Commissioner Stevens has led some of the state's most complex policing operations, including the suppression of outlaw motorcycle gangs, the formation of SAPOL's Paedophile Task Force, the targeting of organised crime and improving SAPOL's response to family and domestic violence. His contributions have brought justice to victims, contributed to legal reforms and enhanced public safety.

Beyond operations, Commissioner Stevens' impact on SAPOL's organisational culture and policy is substantial. He has championed reform in frontline service delivery and demand management, advanced gender equality, and advocated for the elimination of harassment and discrimination in the workplace.

In addition to his policing career, Commissioner Stevens is a UniSA alumnus, having graduated with a Bachelor of Business (Human Resource Development) in 1999 and a Graduate Certificate of Management in 2004. His career and educational pathway reflect a strong alignment with the University's values around leadership, community impact and lifelong learning.

**Chancellor, Commissioner Stevens' exceptional career is defined by his commitment to community safety and his dedication to public service. He has had a lasting impact across justice and reform, law enforcement, and emergency response in our state. It is therefore fitting that we recognise his distinguished contribution.**

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