

Chancellor, the University of South Australia confers the honorary award 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 Professor Nicola Spurrier PSM for the honorary award of Doctor of the University in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.

As a dual qualified medical specialist, public health physician and paediatrician, Professor Nicola Spurrier's contribution to public health in South Australia spans clinical practice, academia, policy and leadership.

Professor Spurrier has served SA Health for more than 30 years, initially practicing as a paediatrician at the Women's and Children's Hospital during the 1990s before working in policy and program development and implementation, specialising in child health, obesity prevention and Aboriginal health.

In 2019, Professor Spurrier was appointed as the state's Chief Public Health Officer and holds that position today. In her role, she is responsible for statewide preventative health activities, including the identification and management of communicable diseases, and advises the Minister for the Department for Health and Wellbeing on issues relating to public health.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Spurrier was instrumental in South Australia's effective virus response and quickly became a trusted figure of authority. Appearing in daily press conferences, her calm, honest and direct approach provided guidance for South Australians during a time of great uncertainty.

In 2021, Professor Spurrier was awarded a Public Service Medal for outstanding service to community health. That same year, she was named as both Woman of the Year and Leader of the Year by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Sector Employment, and was also one of South Australia's Australian of the Year finalists. In 2022, she was the South Australian recipient of The Australian Awards for Excellence in Women's Leadership, and a University of Adelaide Distinguished Alumni Award winner.

Professor Spurrier has also contributed to public health research and to the development of future health professionals through her twelve-year tenure as an academic at Flinders University.

Today, Professor Spurrier remains committed to the health and wellbeing of every South Australian and continues to serve the people of our state with distinction.

Chancellor, Professor Spurrier's exceptional career is defined by her commitment to public health, her leadership and her dedication to the community. She has had a lasting impact across preventative health, communicable disease management and public wellbeing in our state. It is therefore fitting that we recognise her distinguished contribution.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present Professor Nicola Spurrier for the honorary award of Doctor of the University.