

## CITATION FOR HONORARY DOCTORATE OF LAWS (*honoris causa*)

### **PROFESSOR FRANCIS PATRICK LARKINS, AM FTSE FAA FRACI FAIP FAIE**

This award is being made to Professor Frank Larkins in recognition of a distinguished professional and academic career spanning more than 35 years, including 18 years as a Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Melbourne from 1990 until 2008.

Francis (Frank) Larkins was born in Geelong, Victoria and educated at St Joseph's College in Geelong and the University of Melbourne, graduating with Honours in Chemistry in 1962. He went on to complete a Bachelor of Education and a Master of Science with honours in Chemistry in 1966. In that year, Frank was awarded the Rhodes Scholarship for Victoria and studied at Wadham College, Oxford University from 1966 to 1969 where he gained a Diploma of Advanced Mathematics and a Doctor of Philosophy. As a student, he also won a full blue for athletics from Melbourne and from Oxford. Later, in 1987, the University of Melbourne honoured him with a Doctor of Science.

Frank's professional and academic career has always been closely associated with higher education. Following academic roles at Monash, Oxford, Ohio State, Oregon State, Oregon Universities and the University of Tasmania, Frank was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the University of Melbourne in 1990, a position he held until 2005. In this capacity, Frank was responsible for the research profile of the University of Melbourne and during this period the University established its ranking as Australia's premier research university.

Concurrently with his role as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Frank acted as Dean of the Faculty of Science for one year (1997-1998) and then as Dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Resources for a year in 2005. Frank became Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) in 2006 until June 2008 when the position was renamed Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global Relations), in which he continued to serve with distinction until his retirement in December 2008. In all of these roles, Frank has made an outstanding contribution to the University and has been instrumental in lifting its international reputation in many fields.

Frank has earned an outstanding reputation as a scientific leader. His research experience has been extensive, spanning topics in theoretical chemical physics, catalysis, coal chemistry, materials and fuel science. He has published more than two hundred papers and has supervised numerous research higher degree students and research fellows. Frank has had a strong commitment to increasing international cooperation in research fields where partnerships can lead to advances in areas of global significance, such as health issues, water and environmental management and geopolitical cooperation.

Frank's contribution to scientific research was recognised through his election as a Fellow of both the Australian Academy of Science and the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, the Australian Institute of Energy and the Australian Institute of Physics. Frank has been involved in numerous external review committees, both in Australia and overseas, and he chaired the National and International Scientific Advisory Committees for the Australian Synchrotron Project. In 2007, he was named as Chief Scientist for Energy by the Victorian Government's Department of Primary Industries.

Throughout his distinguished career Frank has been awarded numerous prizes, scholarships and fellowships, including the Fulbright Senior Scholarship (1986), Fellowship of the Australian Academy of Science (1995), and the Centenary Medal of Australia for services to science and education in 2003. A highlight of his career was the award of Member of the Order of Australia in 2001: "*for service to the development of research policy in Australia and the promotion of science and technology at state and national levels and to education*".

The award of this Honorary Doctorate of Laws (*honoris causa*) is a fitting recognition for the extraordinary contribution that Frank Larkins has made as a scientist, research leader and active community participant to the University of Melbourne and the wider community over a period of more than four decades.