

Citation for Honorary Doctor of Laws (honoris causa)

Professor Ian Chubb AC

Professor Ian Chubb has a long and distinguished career serving higher education and Australian science. He is currently Australia's Chief Scientist. Prior to assuming this role in 2011, Professor Chubb was Vice-Chancellor of the Australian National University, a position he held for ten years. He has been Vice-Chancellor of Flinders University, Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Monash University, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong.

Professor Chubb's career in academia began in 1969 as a Research Fellow at the University of Ghent in Belgium where his research focussed on the neurosciences. During the early 1970s he held positions at Oxford as Wellcome Foundation Scholar and Royal Society Research Fellow. His research was supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Australian Research Grants Scheme and various Foundations.

In making the move from research to University administration, Professor Chubb began what has been a prolonged and outstanding contribution to the development of higher education policy and its implementation at state, national and international levels. He has held appointments on a range of significant advisory councils and boards including as President of the Australian Vice-Chancellor's Committee and Chair of the Group of Eight. He was also Chair of the Commonwealth Government's peak advisory body on higher education - the Higher Education Council. He was Deputy Chair of the National Board of Employment, Education and Training, and Deputy Chair of the Committee for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. All his advisory and management roles have been characterised by original and courageous approaches to public policy and leadership that set standards and paths for others to follow.

In 1999 Professor Chubb was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). In 2006 he was made a Companion (AC) in the order for 'service to higher education, including research and development policy in the pursuit of advancing the national interest socially, economically, culturally and environmentally, and to the facilitation of a knowledge-based global economy'. He has been awarded honorary doctorates from the Australian National University and a number of other Universities. He was the Australian Capital Territory's Australian of the Year in 2011.

As Chief Scientist, Professor Chubb has provided exceptional leadership and vision. His political skills and forceful advocacy have brought much needed visibility and attention to his portfolio, where he continues to be a fearless and influential advocate for science and tertiary education. Until his appointment, Australia was the only OECD nation that did not have a national strategy in science and technology. His greatest achievement could well be his development of the country's strategy in STEM which he has shaped to take a long term strategic view of the pivotal role that Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics will play in securing a competitive economy for this country.