

Citation for the Award of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) to Pat Anderson AO

Alyawarre woman, Pat Anderson, is a prominent leader and tireless advocate dedicated to advancing self-determination and the health and education of Australia's First Nations people. Her work spans Indigenous health and education, recognition, and the welfare of children, with a strong focus on the need for consultative leadership and strategies that address power imbalances.

Working with Rex Wild QC, as Co-Chair of the Northern Territory Government's Inquiry into Child Abuse and Neglect, Pat Anderson consulted closely on the harm being done to children within communities, and the ensuing landmark report, *Little Children are Sacred*, alerted the nation to this and outlined recommendations to protect Aboriginal children from sexual abuse. She remained stalwart in the face of government inaction and the subsequent highly controversial federal intervention and continues to note the great disconnect between what was recommended and the actions taken.

Pat Anderson's leadership, as Chair of the Cooperative Research Centre for Aboriginal Health, and now of the Lowitja Institute, Aboriginal organisations, academic institutions, and government agencies have come together to produce collaborative, evidence-based research. Her commitment to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities are engaged with health research as active participants has developed research capacity, improved ethical guidelines and reciprocity, and built a cohort of Indigenous researchers who are now leading Indigenous health research.

As Co-Chair, with Mark Leibler AC, of the Referendum Council, Pat oversaw First Nation Regional Dialogues held across the country to reach broad agreement on how to address the exclusion of Indigenous Australians in the Australian Constitution. These Dialogues informed the First Nations Convention at Uluru in 2017 where over 250 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders produced the Uluru Statement from the Heart, calling for a First Nations Voice to Parliament to be enshrined in the Constitution. The Statement represents First Nations consensus and has broad public approval and Pat Anderson continues to call passionately for this substantive change, standing firm as an advocate for Indigenous Australians' right to self-determination.

Widespread community acknowledgements of Pat Anderson's contributions include being named as one of 100 Women of Influence by Westpac and the Australian Financial Review, a Human Rights Medal from the Australian Human Rights Commission, a NAIDOC Lifetime Achievement Award and appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Pat Anderson is recommended for the award of the Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) in recognition of her exemplary, inclusive leadership, her forthright advocacy for the advancement and recognition of Indigenous communities and voices, and her highly distinguished contributions to health research that benefit not just Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples but the nation at large.