

Citation - Dr Ron Sandland FTSE AM

Dr Ron Sandland has had a long and distinguished career serving Australian science. Upon graduating from the University of Sydney in 1969 with a BSc (Hons), he joined the Division of Mathematical Statistics of CSIRO. He gained actuarial qualifications in 1974 and his PhD from the University of New South Wales in 1980.

Dr Sandland's research interests have been in applying statistics to solve challenging real problems in areas as diverse as growth of organisms, analysis of mark recapture experiments, ore-reserve estimation and quality improvement.

Dr Sandland became Chief of the Division of Mathematics and Statistics of CSIRO in 1988, later managing its merger with the Division of Information Technology into what became CSIRO Mathematical and Information Sciences. In 1999 he became Deputy Chief Executive of CSIRO. This involved bringing together six major cross-disciplinary research programs to address problems of national priority. He was awarded the CSIRO Medal for Lifetime Achievement in recognition of 37 years of divisional and organisational leadership that culminated in the successful implementation of the Flagship and Science Planning Initiatives which are acknowledged as playing a critical role in shaping the organisation.

Dr Sandland has made an outstanding contribution to the discipline of statistics, serving the Statistical Society of Australia in various capacities including President. He was made an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1998.

He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, and a member of the Order of Australia.

Dr Sandland has held appointments on a range of advisory councils and boards including the Australian National Data Service. He chairs the boards of three University centres based in the Faculty of Science - the Centre of Excellence for Biological Risk Assessment (CEBRA), the ARC Centre of Excellence for Mathematical and Statistical Frontiers (ACEMS) and The Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI). Since beginning this service to the Faculty 10 years ago, his Chairmanship has been marked by exceptional strategic leadership and vision. His political skills and advocacy have been valuable for each of the Centres in negotiation and partnership building with government departments and other institutions.

Ron Sandland is a much admired and respected leader and scientist. He has consistently tackled each of his endeavours with dedication and passion. The quality of his contribution to the Faculty of Science, the broader science community, and his discipline, has been exceptional. His distinguished career has been especially conspicuous by generous mentoring of colleagues to maximise their contribution, and creating opportunity for others.