

MS QUENTIN ALICE LOUISE BRYCE

Citation for the conferral of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*)

Chancellor, the University has determined to confer on Quentin Alice Louise Bryce, AO the award of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*). In doing so the University recognises her outstanding leadership in Australian society, particularly in childcare, human rights and education, and her significant contribution to Charles Sturt University, especially to the policing programs represented at today's ceremony.

Even a brief outline of Ms Bryce's career is sufficient to show the distinction and uniqueness of her contribution to our community.

Quentin Bryce was educated at Moreton Bay College and the University of Queensland where she graduated Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws. She was called to the Queensland Bar in 1965. She taught in the Faculty of Law at the University of Queensland from 1968 to 1983, lecturing in Criminal and Administrative Law.

During these years she was, to use her own words, "seriously into motherhood", raising five children. Some idea of the magnitude of her achievement in this regard can be gauged from the fact that at one point all five were under seven.

From 1984 to 1987 Quentin Bryce was Founding Director of the Queensland Women's Information Services in the Office of the Status of Women of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet. In 1987 she became Director of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, Queensland. In 1988 Quentin Bryce became an Officer of the Order of Australia in recognition of her services to the community, especially women and children. From 1988 to 1993 she served as the Federal Sex Discrimination Commissioner. From 1993 to 1996 she was the Founding Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the National Childcare Accreditation Council.

During these years also Ms Bryce served as Convenor of the National Women's Advisory Council; the Commonwealth Representative on the Australian Children's Television Foundation Board; the National President of the Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital; the Vice-President of the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties; and a member of the Australian Delegation to the UN Commission for Human Rights.

Currently Quentin Bryce is the Principal of The Women's College in the University of Sydney. She is also Chair of the National Breast Cancer Advisory Council; a Director of Plan International and of the YWCA and a member of the Advisory Board of the Research Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences.

She is Chair of the Board of Australian Women's Cricket and a member of the Board of the Bradman Foundation.

In 1998 the then Vice-Chancellor of Charles Sturt University, Professor Cliff Blake and the then Police Commissioner, Peter Ryan, invited Ms Bryce to be the first Chair of the Board of Management for the Diploma of Policing Practice. The Board was established by the University and NSW Police Service to oversee the collaborative arrangements under which the Diploma is offered. Ms Bryce chaired the Board until 2001 and has made a major

contribution to the development of police education and the introduction of enhanced standards of professional preparation.

Ms Bryce's career has been marked by leadership: leadership in pioneering new roles and leadership in taking on very difficult and challenging tasks.

She was one of the first women to be admitted to the Queensland Bar. She was the first woman appointed to the Law Faculty of the University of Queensland. She was a founder of the National Women's Advisory Council; the Founding Director of the Women's Information Services; the Founding Chair and CEO of the National Childcare Accreditation Council; and the first chair of the Board of Management for the Diploma of Policing Practice.

The courage and dedication Ms Bryce has brought to her service to our community was well illustrated during her years as CEO of the National Childcare Accreditation Council. In leading the campaign to establish appropriate standards in this important field, she encountered strong opposition from powerful economic interests in the then childcare industry. She received death threats and worked for significant periods under round the clock protection.

Throughout her career Ms Bryce has worked to overcome prejudice and discrimination. She has been an articulate and effective advocate for human rights and the rights and welfare of women and children. She has been an inspiring model of service to the Australian community.

Mr Chancellor, I present for the award of Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*), Quentin Bryce.

Dated this Second Day of May Two Thousand and Two