

**Dr Claire Bunday**  
**Citation for the conferral of a**  
**Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*)**

Chancellor, I present Claire Bunday for the award of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*).

Claire Bunday has made an outstanding contribution to her profession, social work, in Australia and overseas both as a practitioner and as an educator. In the latter capacity she has had a close and highly valued association with this University. She has made a very substantial and important contribution to the success of Charles Sturt University's social work program, the first graduates of which have been presented to you today.

Claire Bunday completed studies in social work at the University of Sydney in 1953. For the next thirteen years she worked as a hospital social worker, then as a social worker in psychiatric hospitals in the Sydney area. During this period Claire established a reputation as an outstanding practitioner. This led to her joining the staff of the School of Social work at the University of New South Wales in 1966 as the coordinator of field education programs.

As a lecturer, then senior lecturer, Claire Bunday remained at the University until 1980. During these years she was active in curriculum development, especially in the development of the teaching of group work and interpersonal skills training. She also took a leadership role in her school, acting as head of school. She became known as an exceptional teacher, committed and supportive to her students, generous with her time, and outstanding in linking social work theory and practice.

During these years also, Claire Bunday played an active role in her professional association, the Australian Association of Social Workers, and in community and government organisations. Since her retirement from the University of New South Wales, she has continued to work in these spheres.

Her service to the community and to social and welfare services has included membership of the executive of the New South Wales Council of Social Services and leadership within the Marriage Guidance Council of New South Wales and in Unifam, the Uniting Church Marriage and Family Services agency.

Within her professional association Claire Bunday served as New South Wales Branch President twice, as Treasurer, as Federal delegate, and as a member of the Committee of Management. At the national level she has been a member of the Federal Council, Vice President and Director. She has been a member of a number of important committees particularly those concerned with ethics and professional standards and with education. She has been a leading and long standing member of the Associations Assessment Panel which is charged with the accreditation of schools of social work.

Mrs Bunday's expertise in the matter of professional standards has led to her playing a prominent role in the work of the National Office of Overseas Skills Recognition, where for a long time she chaired the panel charged with assessing overseas social work qualifications.

Claire Bunday has been active in international social work organisations as an Australian delegate. Through these forums she has developed a particular interest in social work in China, she has learnt to speak Chinese and has visited China on a number of occasions for discussions with social work educators. Her activities have encouraged the establishment of mutually beneficial links between social workers in China and Australia.

In recognition of her services to social work Claire Bunday was made a life member of the Australian Association of Social Workers in 1984. In 1992 she was made a member of the Order of Australia "for services to education and social welfare".

Mrs Bunday has had a close association with Charles Sturt University. When a social work course is being developed by a university a consultant is appointed by the professional association to liaise with the university regarding accreditation requirements. Claire Bunday was appointed consultant to the proposed course at Charles Sturt. The University has benefited greatly from her advice and guidance. She has been generous with time and support.

In the case of this University's social work course the consultant had a particularly important role. The University had proposed the introduction of Australia's first social work program by distance education and, whilst there was support within the profession for the increased access to social work education this might bring, there was also considerable scepticism about the possibility of teaching social work in this mode. Claire Bunday's work as consultant proved crucial to the acceptance of distance learning in the social work community and to the accreditation of the course without reservation.

Mrs Bunday has continued her association with the University since the accreditation of the course. She has contributed to the teaching of the social work course. Drawing on her experience with overseas social work programs she has contributed greatly to an important national program established by the University which enables overseas trained social workers to gain Australian qualifications. The first graduates of that program are also with us today.

All who know Claire Bunday speak of her dedication to her profession and to social welfare; of her sustained commitment to the highest standards in practice and education; and of her generosity with time and energy. In recommending that she be made a life member of their association, her colleagues spoke of her contribution to social work in Australia as unique in its combination of the roles of educator and practitioner, in its impact on the development of the profession, and in the respect it has gained.

Chancellor, I present to you Claire Bunday.

**Fifth Day of April One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Five**