



Charles Sturt  
University

Citation

Honourable Michael  
Kirby AC CMG

**For further information please contact**

Charles Sturt University - TEQSA Provider Identification:  
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## **Citation for the conferral of the honorary award or title of Doctor of the University upon The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG**

The Honourable Michael Kirby AC CMG continues to make a remarkable contribution to society after a distinguished and ongoing legal career as a lawyer, judicial officer, law reformer, arbitration lawyer, protector of international human rights for the United Nations and the World Health Organisation, prolific author, speechmaker, lecturer nationally and internationally, and, advocate for LGBTIQ+ rights and HIV/AIDS research organisations, and as patron of the QTOPIA Sydney Queer Museum.

Educated with a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Laws, and Bachelor of Economics, and, a Master of Laws (First-Class Honours), he is the worthy recipient of many honorary doctorates recognising his contribution to Australian and international society.

Admitted to the New South Wales Bar in 1967, Michael Kirby was the youngest man appointed to federal judicial office at the time of his appointment as Deputy President of the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Commission from 1975-1983. From 1975-1984, Michael Kirby was also the Chairman of the Australian Law Reform Commission.

In 1983, Justice Kirby was appointed to the Federal Court of Australia and then as President of the NSW Court of Appeal in 1984-1996 and the President of the Court of Appeal of the Solomon Island 1995-1996. Appointed to the High Court of Australia from 1996 to 2009, his judgments and work on that court are well-known and influential for law students, academics and legal practitioners alike. Some of his powerful dissents, in the words of barristers and academics Ian Freckelton and

Hugh Selby, should be characterised correctly as ahead of their time and “appealing to the future”. Justice Kirby’s work on a number of courts shaped all areas of law and represent among the finest examples of judicial interpretation in Australia and elsewhere.

Beyond judicial work, Michael Kirby continues to use his formidable legal skills to national and international benefit, including being appointed as the Chair of a UN Human Rights Council’s Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Violations in North Korea, and in maintaining an award-winning international commercial arbitration practice.

Michael has fond memories of travels to Bathurst from Sydney over the years, and has had connections to many Charles Sturt campuses, staff and students for which we thank him. Lectures have included the annual lecture in honour of Professor Bob Meyenn, the former Dean of the Faculty of Education; lecturing in Wagga on theories of judicial reasoning, and visiting Albury and Bathurst to engage with business law students and staff as well as the staff of the Centre for Law and Justice. Michael has worked with Dame Margaret Guilfoyle and others on Charles Sturt advisory committees relating to public ethics. Michael also has fond memories of connecting with former Charles Sturt Vice-Chancellor Cliff Blake and is honoured to be receiving this award in the CD Blake Auditorium on Bathurst Campus.