

DR MICHAEL CARTER TATE

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

Michael Tate was born in Sydney on 6 July 1945 shortly before his family moved to Hobart.

He was educated at St Virgil's College in Hobart and the University of Tasmania where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours. Despite ongoing physical problems resulting from a serious motor vehicle accident, Michael studied theology at Oxford University for his Master of Laws. There are some who claim that he was the first Catholic to study theology at Oxford since the Reformation.

Michael was a Lecturer in Law at the University of Tasmania from 1972 to 1978 and was Dean of the Law Faculty from 1977 to 1978. In recognition of his service to the law, academically and politically, the University of Tasmania awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Laws in 1992.

He was first elected to the Senate for Tasmania, representing the Australian Labor Party, in 1977 and was re-elected in 1983, 1987 and 1993. He resigned from the Senate in 1993 to become Australian Ambassador to The Netherlands and the Holy See.

Michael Tate's parliamentary service included the Senate Standing Committee on Constitutional and Legal Affairs from 1978 to 1986 and he was Chairman from 1983 to 1986. He was a member of the Senate Scrutiny of Bills Committee from 1982 to 1987 during which time he was the Presiding Member from 1983 to 1987 and he chaired the Senate Select Committee on the Human Embryo Experimentation Bill in 1986.

Michael was a long serving member of the Federal Parliamentary Christian Fellowship and was its President from 1985 to 1988. He is also a member of Amnesty International.

As a member of the Australian Labor Party he served on the Caucus Legal and Administrative Committee from 1978 to 1986 and was Chairman from 1983 to 1986. Michael was a member of the Party's National Executive from 1984 to 1985.

Michael was appointed Special Minister of State in February 1987 and then became Minister for Justice after the 1987 election. In 1990, following the re-election of Labor he became the Minister for Justice and Consumer Affairs and, in 1992, he became Minister for Justice and Minister Assisting the Minister for Immigration. By the time of his retirement in 1993, he had been a Minister for more than 6 years and had, therefore, been responsible for Federal law enforcement longer than any previous Minister.

His many achievements as Minister for Justice included a comprehensive restructuring of the Australian Federal Police, national privacy legislation, and the strategic alliance between Australian policing and Charles Sturt University through the Australian Institute of Police Management. This culminated in the signing of an Affiliation Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and Charles Sturt University on 14 April 1992 to create the Australian Graduate School of Police Management with the status of a faculty of the University.

Michael Tate is currently the Australian Ambassador to The Netherlands and the Holy See. For services to government and the community he was awarded the Order of Australia in the 1996 Australia Day Awards.

It is with great pleasure that, in recognition of his contribution to government, education, social justice and particularly the professionalisation of Australasian policing, Charles Sturt University confers on Michael Carter Tate the degree Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Thirty First Day of May One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six