

DR MATTHEW FISHER

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

Vice-Chancellor, it is a privilege to present to you and to this gathering, for the award of Doctor of Health Studies (*honoris causa*), Dr Matthew Fisher.

The University Council has resolved to confer this award on Dr Matthew Fisher in recognition of his dedication to improving oral healthcare and services in rural and regional NSW.

Dr Matthew Fisher is the Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Dental Association (ADA) NSW Branch Ltd which represents over 4200 dentists in NSW and the ACT. He graduated from Deakin University with a BSc(Hons) Grad Dip Diet in 1986 and a PhD in 1989. He attended Harvard University in 2008 and London Business School in 2012 to further his understanding of leadership.

During his time at ADA he has presented to State and Federal governments on matters relating to oral health, most recently he has presented to a Senate Committee reviewing the Chronic Disease Dental Scheme. At the ADA, he has focused on improving the community relevance of and community leadership by the ADA. One key partnership continues with the Australian Red Cross to provide treatment to asylum seekers.

Dr Fisher was instrumental in obtaining funding from the Dental Board of NSW, ACT Dental Board and NSW Health for educational projects including a medical emergencies DVD, simulation training and an animated media resource based on the Australian Charter for Healthcare Rights. He has also overseen the development of a world class training facility/media production unit based in NSW.

Dr Matthew Fisher has been a strong and consistent advocate for improving oral healthcare and services in rural and regional NSW.

Through his strong industry background and expertise he provided critical support to the development of a partnership between Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the ADA that significantly contributed to the establishment of Dentistry at CSU.

This partnership has not only continued but blossomed due to Dr Fisher's commitment to rural oral health and the improvement of access to dental care by people in regional communities.

As an Adjunct Associate Professor appointed within the School of Dentistry and Health Science, Dr Fisher has unstintingly provided his time and expertise in assisting with the delivery of the Dentistry curriculum, with a particular focus on professional practice and regulatory compliance.

Dr Fisher currently is a member of the Board of Management at the CSU School of Dentistry, a position which he has held since 2009.

Dr Fisher sits as a member of: The Australian Institute of Company Directors, Australian Institute of Management, Australian College of Health Service Management, and the Australian Society for Association Executives. In addition to this, Dr Fisher has recently been appointed to the following: Oral Health Advisory Group, Ministerial Taskforce on Oral Health, and the Primary Care Committee – Australian Commission for Safety & Quality in Health Care.

Vice-Chancellor, I now present Dr Matthew Fisher, an outstanding leader in health sciences who has successfully advocated for the improvement of oral healthcare and services in rural and regional communities and to the development of oral health education.

Dated this Seventeenth Day of December Two Thousand and Thirteen