

DR RALPH WATKIN RAWLINSON

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

Ralph Watkin Rawlinson was born in Mudgee, New South Wales, on 22 December 1934. He received his early education at Buckaroo Primary School, a one-teacher school, and then attended Mudgee High School where he completed his Leaving Certificate in 1950.

After completing his Teacher's Certificate at the Bathurst Teachers' College in 1952, Ralph went on to teach in several one-teacher schools over the next seven years. In 1956 Ralph married Paula Lovett, a fellow pioneer student at Bathurst Teachers' College. Their only daughter, Janita, later trained as a teacher at the Mitchell College of Advanced Education which had evolved from their own alma mater. Sadly, Paula died in 1961.

In 1959 Ralph was appointed by the New South Wales Department of Education, firstly as a Senior Research Officer, then as a Chief Curriculum Officer. At this time Ralph returned to tertiary study, completing a Bachelor of Arts with first class honours and receiving the University Medal for Education at the University of Sydney in 1961. He was later awarded a New South Wales Public Service Scholarship, enabling him to study in the United Kingdom where he completed a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Birmingham in 1967.

On returning to Australia from the United Kingdom, Ralph was re-appointed by the New South Wales Department of Education to set up the Centre for Research in Learning and instruction. In 1970 he married Shirley Fowler, and together with her two children and Janita, established a new family, to which their daughter Melissa later became a welcome addition. Today Ralph and Shirley are proud grandparents of four children.

The focus of Ralph's career shifted to the higher education sector in 1973 when, as Assistant Principal, he contributed to the academic development of the new Cumberland College of Health Sciences. In 1974 he was appointed Foundation Principal of the Alexander Mackie College of Advanced Education, a position he held until 1980 when he became Foundation Chairman of the Education Commission of New South Wales. From 1980 to 1987 Ralph was responsible for the establishment and leadership of this statutory commission, which was the principal advisory body to the Government on public education and employer of more than 65,000 school and TAFE teachers. In 1987 and 1988 Ralph was Planning Vice-Chancellor of the proposed Chifley University and played a pivotal role in the planning and development of the new University of Western Sydney which replaced it.

Ralph's key roles in planning, developing and establishing academic institutions and systems paved the way for his progression into consultancy work. In 1989 he and Shirley established Rawlinson Consulting Services Pty Ltd, providing consultancy services in education, training and health in Australia and overseas. Their company's overseas projects have included work for AusAID, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and governments in countries such as Fiji, Kiribati, the Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands, Samoa, Nepal, Vanuatu and China.

Ralph is a Fellow of the Australian College of Education and a Member of the Institute of Educational Research.

Chancellor, I present to you Ralph Watkin Rawlinson, educator, educational administrator and pioneer student of Bathurst Teachers' College for conferral of the award Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*).

Dated this Twenty Fourth Day of November Two Thousand and One