THE HONOURABLE MARGARET REID

Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of the University (honoris causa)

Chancellor, I present the Honourable Margaret Reid, AO, for the award of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).

In making this award, Charles Sturt University wishes to recognise Margaret Reid's outstanding contribution to the Australian community through leadership and service. It also wishes to acknowledge Margaret Reid's outstanding contribution to the development of centres of excellence and service within the University itself.

The Honourable Margaret Reid, AO was born at Crystal Brook in South Australia. After taking a degree in law at the University of Adelaide, she worked as a barrister and solicitor in Adelaide and Canberra. She became a Senator for the Australian Capital Territory in 1981, a post she held until her retirement from the Commonwealth Parliament in 2003.

Margaret Reid became Deputy President of the Senate and Chair of Committees in 1995. In August 1996 she became President of the Senate, a position she held until her retirement.

During her time in the Senate, and especially as President of the Senate, Margaret Reid played an active role in the leadership of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and other national and international bodies dedicated to the promotion of good practice in democratic parliaments.

Margaret Reid maintained a strong commitment to leadership and service at a community level throughout her years in parliament. She has continued to do so following her retirement.

She has served as a member of the Council of the Australian National University. She is currently chair of the Australian Foundation for Medical Health Research and Chair of the Canberra Region Community Foundation.

In 1998 Margaret Reid accepted the invitation of the then Vice-Chancellor of CSU, Professor C D Blake, to become the first chair of the Board of the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture. She guided the Centre through its establishment phase, including the construction of the first stage of its building projects. As chair she very successfully promoted the engagement of the Centre with a broad range of Australian society as well as the Canberra community.

In 2004 Margaret Reid accepted the invitation of Charles Sturt University to become chair of the Board of the Special Research Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics, a position she continues to hold. In 2005 she oversaw the successful reaccreditation of the Centre by the Commonwealth.

In 1996 Margaret Reid was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Returned and Services League. In 2003 she was awarded a Centenary Medal. She was awarded officer (AO) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Chancellor, I present the Honourable Margaret Reid, AO, parliamentarian and national, community and university leader.

Dated this Fifth Day of May Two Thousand and Six