

## **DR JANETTE ROSALIND NOBLE**

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

Jan Noble was born on 21 July 1933 and commenced her schooling in Singleton and completed her secondary education at the Fort Street Evening College in Sydney. From 1952 to 1956 she undertook her General Nurse Training at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children at Camperdown in Sydney. In the following year, she completed her Midwifery training at the Women's Hospital in Crown Street, Sydney. From 1957 until 1959, Jan Noble worked as a Registered Nurse and in 1959 travelled to New Zealand and later to London and Paris to gain international nursing experience. In New Zealand, she worked at the National Women's Hospital in Auckland and from 1960 to 1962 at the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormond Street, London. In 1962, she travelled to France where she worked for more than a year at the American Hospital in Paris.

Upon her return to Australia in 1963, Jan Noble went back to Singleton, where she had completed her early education, to accept the position of Matron at the Elizabeth Gates Homes. In 1964 she returned to Sydney to become a Tutor Sister at the Royal Alexandra Hospital and shortly thereafter commenced studies for her Diploma of Nursing Education which she was awarded in 1965. Her passion for education was rekindled during the late 1960s and she commenced studies at the University of New South Wales, where in 1972, she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours, First Class). In the year prior to her graduation, and while still in her thirties, Jan Noble accepted the prestigious position of Director of Nursing at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Sydney, a position which she held until 1979.

It was during her time at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children that Jan Noble began to have a significant influence on the health services and nursing education in NSW and beyond. She served on a number of course accreditation teams for the Nurses Education Board and the Higher Education Board. In 1974, she chaired the committee looking at the Future Development of Nursing Education in NSW and the same year she also chaired the committee inquiring into Nurse Aide Training in NSW. She served on the Nurses Education Board of NSW, the Professional Services Advisory Council, the NSW Hospitals Planning Council, the Australian Council on Hospital Standards and was a Surveyor for the Council and was a member of the 1979 Task Force on Rationalisation of Hospital Services in Recognised Hospitals in NSW. She was instrumental in the formation of the Paediatric Nurses Association in NSW becoming its Foundation Chairperson in 1976 and later achieving recognition as an Honorary Fellow of the Association. Never did Jan Noble forget the importance of life long learning and education, and in 1975 began an association with the Australian Management College at Mt Eliza. In that year she completed Advanced Course 52 at the College and returned on a regular basis over the next 20 years. Also during the 1970s, Jan Noble played a significant role in a number of community activities especially the Sun Toy Fund and became its Deputy Chairperson in 1975.

During 1978, with a grant from the Health Commission of NSW, Jan Noble studied paediatric hospital services in Europe, Great Britain and North America. Shortly after her return, she was recruited from her position as Director of Nursing at the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children to become a Commissioner for the Health Commission of New South Wales, a position which she held for several years. During her appointment with the Health Commission, Jan Noble served on the Pharmacy Board of NSW, the Health Education Advisory Council and the Health Promotion Advisory Council. Indeed, as a Commissioner,

she was intimately involved in a number of inquiries and task forces and was able to play an instrumental role in influencing the direction of health services and nursing education in NSW.

During the early 1980s, the experience and expertise of Jan Noble was in demand. In 1983, for instance, she served as a member of the Committee which examined the Hospital Services in South Australia. She was seconded, during 1984, to join the Directorate of the Australian Administrative Staff College at Mt Eliza in Victoria and remained a visiting Syndicate Leader at Mt Eliza for a number of years. And, in 1985, she chaired the Review of Dental Services in New South Wales.

The next significant career move for Jan Noble came in 1985 when she was appointed Director of Ambulance Education with the Ambulance Service of NSW, a position which she held until 1989. She was the first woman to hold this appointment which came at a crucial time for the future of Ambulance Education in NSW. It was Jan Noble who laid the groundwork for the transition of Ambulance Education into the University sector and who recognised the importance of a comprehensive education program combined with on-road experience as the basis for Ambulance Officer Education. Following this appointment, Jan Noble has continued her association with the Ambulance Service of NSW having been made an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute of Ambulance Officers. Since 1990, she has been a member of the Board of the Ambulance Service and has chaired its Education and Training Committee. In both these roles, she has been influential in establishing the relationship between Charles Sturt University and the Ambulance Service which led to the establishment of the School of Paramedical Studies at Rozelle in 1994 to provide university courses in pre-hospital care to officers of the Ambulance Service of NSW. She currently serves as a Member of the School of Paramedical Studies School Board.

Jan Noble continues to be active. She is a member of the National Trust, the Australian-China Friendship Society, the National Parks Association and the Wilderness Society and a life member of the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust. In recent times, she has undertaken volunteer work with the Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union, the Murray Darling Basin Water Bird Project and the Australian Museum, being a volunteer guide and Museum publications' editorial assistant.

It is with pleasure that Charles Sturt University recognises Janette Rosalind Noble, a doyenne of Nursing, Paramedical and Ambulance Education, a respected and honoured health administrator in this State, and a woman on whom Charles Sturt University is proud to confer its first Doctor of Health Studies (*honoris causa*) award.

**Dated this Twentieth Day of May One Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Six**