

## FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

### Citation for the Award of Doctor of the University and Emeritus Deputy Chancellor

Ian Yates BA *Flin*, AM

Mr Ian Yates has served Flinders University as a member of Council since 5 December 1994 after being elected by Convocation, and as Deputy Chancellor from January 2007. He was a member, then Chair for seven and a half years, of the Resources Committee (1996 - 2012), Chair for five and a half years and then member of the Audit Committee (1996 - February 2014), and is currently Chair of the Strategic Resources Committee and a member of the Governance Committee, the Executive Committee of Council and the Awards Committee.

During his time as a Council member and Deputy Chancellor, Mr Yates has contributed his knowledge, skills and experience to the benefit of the University through his ability to work for and achieve outcomes in the best interests of the University, its students, staff and alumni.

Prior to this involvement in the governance of the University, Mr Yates was a member of the Standing Committee of Convocation (the statutory body of the University's graduates). He became President of the Convocation in late 1992 and led the organisation through a difficult period of change for both the Convocation and the University. The University was being restructured into faculties and the Convocation had a role in approving the necessary legislative changes which were not universally popular. He led the merger of the often competing Alumni and Convocation, and continued as President of the Alumni Association until late 2002. He continued as an Alumni committee member until it was wound-up in June 2011.

Mr Ian Yates' long involvement with Flinders University commenced in 1968 when he enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts with majors in history and philosophy, graduating in 1972. During those years as a student he was active in the University's affairs as President of the Student Representative Council for two and a half years, in which capacity he was an *ex officio* member of the University Council. He was a member then Chair of the Union Board and was Executive Secretary of the Union for two years to December 1975.

His more recent contributions to Flinders have been exceedingly generous, given his demanding professional role as Chief Executive of COTA Australia, the national peak body for Councils on the Ageing in each State and territory in Australia, a role he has held since June 2009. He was previously the Chief Executive of COTA SA from June 1989. Mr Yates leads COTA in its role in identifying issues of concern to the welfare of older Australians, developing policy responses and in representation and advocacy of the needs of older people to government, media, business and the community.

Within the COTA network, he holds, or has held, a number of other positions, including Joint Chief Executive of the national COTA National Seniors Partnership for five years, Managing Director, COTA Member Services Pty Ltd, and founding CEO and then Director, COTA Insurance Services. In addition, he serves or has served as the COTA representative on a wide range of Commonwealth and State bodies and aged care sector national bodies. He served for several years as a Director of the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency and is currently a member of the Aged Care Financing Authority and the Aged Care Sector Committee.

Mr Yates also makes an outstanding contribution to the wider community through service on a wide range of Government and community bodies. His Board roles have included: Chair and Director, Cancer Council of South Australia; Deputy Chair, Repatriation General Hospital; Director, Flinders Medical Centre; Director, Southern Adelaide Health Service and Deputy Chair, South Australian Council of Social Service. He is the consumer representative on the advisory body to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, and has served in similar roles with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and the Australian Energy Regulator.

In 2005 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for 'outstanding service to the welfare of the aged in South Australia and to a range of community, health and education organisations'.

Mr Yates' contribution to the community, his long association with Flinders University and his role with COTA Australia, make him a worthy recipient of the Doctor of the University, *honoris causa* and the title Emeritus Deputy Chancellor.