

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Citation for the Award of Doctor of the University

Professor Annette Summer AO, RFD, RN, RM, DipAppAc(Nsg), BNg, MEdSt, PhD *Flin*

Professor Annette Summers gained her General Nurse Certificate at the RAH in 1975, becoming a Registered Midwife at Calvary Hospital the following year. She earned a Diploma of Applied Science Nursing (1984) at the South Australian College of Advanced Education (Sturt), later earning a Bachelor of Nursing (1988), Master of Education Studies (1992), Certificate in Sexual and Reproductive Health Care National Accreditation in 1996, and completed her PhD in the same year.

Professor Summers entered academia at Flinders University in 1990 as an Academic Counsellor. She commenced lecturing in Midwifery and Nursing, becoming in 1995 a Senior Lecturer, Head of Department of Humanities and Associate Dean in Nursing. By 1998 she was a Professor and Head of the School of Nursing and Midwifery at the University of South Australia, during which time she acted as Pro Vice-Chancellor, Division of Health Sciences and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Equity and Development. Since her retirement in 2006, she has continued to work with Flinders as a consultant on various projects and as a Professorial Fellow. From 1990 to 2002 she attracted, in collaboration with others, almost \$1.5 million of research funding including a \$450,000 NHMRC award for cardiovascular nursing. Annette has over ninety publications including journal articles, books, book reviews, chapters, monograph, conferences, seminars, reviews, reports, and submissions.

At the same time, from 1981, Professor Summers was a military nurse practitioner, rising from Lieutenant to Colonel, the first nurse in the Army Reserve to achieve this rank. Her other firsts include first reserve nurse to be appointed consultant to the Army, first military nurse to gain a PhD, and first woman reservist to hold the position of President of the Court in a Military Court-Martial and bench member of a Court-Martial in South Australia. She was also the first person to graduate with a Doctor of Philosophy from the School of Nursing at Flinders University.

She was a leader in the development of the Army Museum of South Australia at Keswick Barracks, considered the best museum of its type in Australia. She was President for 7 years and remains on the Board. She raised nearly \$73,000 towards the design and implementation of an Army Museum display, for design of an exhibition of the Victory in the Pacific Day Celebrations (1995), and for publication of 'Australia Remembers'.

Annette's services to the community include university, state, national and international committees including Vice Chancellor's and ministerial appointments, and membership of numerous professional associations; she examines theses nationally and is a journal reviewer.

Annette has received various awards which represent her commitment to nursing through clinical, academic and Defence Force pursuits. She received three commendations for national services to the Australian Defence Force, plus the Australia Day Award: South Australian Community Event of the Year (1996), and the Australian Red Cross Service Award for service to the International Humanitarian Law Committee (1997). Annette received the University of South Australia Chancellor's Award for Community Service (2002) and in 2004 was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia for outstanding service to Australia, to nursing and midwifery education, nursing in the Australian Defence Force and community service.

The award of Doctor of the University recognises Professor Summer's achievements in two outstanding careers simultaneously; in nursing, research and academia through her contributions to clinical nursing, nurse education, research and health care in South Australia, and with the Australian Defence Force.