

IAN WILLIAM CHUBB

CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, Emeritus Professor Ian William Chubb.

Professor Chubb took his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees at Oxford. His chosen field was the neurosciences and after some postdoctoral years in Belgium and the UK he took up a Lectureship with Flinders University. His academic career turned to academic leadership with Deputy Vice-Chancellor appointments at Wollongong and Monash and in 1995, the Vice-Chancellorship of Flinders University.

Ian Chubb became Vice-Chancellor of ANU in January 2001 and was charged with reforming the University so that it would be able to meet the evident challenges of the 21st century. At the outset he emphasised that ANU's most important asset was its people, and that if ANU were to move ahead, there needed to be a unity of purpose within the University community.

A major step on the journey was his reorganisation of the University's academic structure. Seven disciplinary based ANU Colleges were established, each consisting of relevant elements of the faculties and research schools. There is good evidence that these larger aggregations have fostered a University-wide focus amongst staff. Concurrently, Ian Chubb moved to shift resource allocation within the University from income allocation to an investment model that rewarded research and education performance against agreed academic plans.

In 2001 the University was significantly under-enrolled in undergraduate students and underweight in PhD and graduate coursework student numbers. Over Ian Chubb's decade as Vice-Chancellor that situation has been completely reversed. The range of undergraduate and graduate coursework programs has been expanded, student accommodation places increased and staff teaching and supervisory skills enhanced. There has been a striking increase in research, graduate coursework and international student numbers. Furthermore, the quality of undergraduate intakes, as indicated by admission ranking scores, has risen substantially.

Professor Chubb led a very successful effort to engage positively with Commonwealth governments culminating in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for a renewed strategic relationship between the Commonwealth and the University which recognizes that the ANU holds a special place as a strategic endowment for our nation and recognizes its unique place in the national education system. He was instrumental in securing significant Commonwealth funding for his plan to consolidate ANU as the national centre for public policy advice, training and debate. He also secured funding for an expanded capital works program which has transformed the physical face of the University.

Ian Chubb revitalised the way in which ANU links with universities in Australia and overseas by insisting that agreements committed signatories to meaningful interaction. He took a leadership role in the formation of the International Alliance of Research Universities which links ANU with nine of the world's major universities: the National University of Singapore; the University of California Berkeley, Peking and Yale Universities, ETH Zurich and the Universities of Copenhagen, Oxford, Cambridge and Tokyo. Nationally, he introduced the ANU National Alliances initiative. These alliances build on the different locations, distinct histories and complementary strengths of ANU and its partners to increase pathways to higher education for more people. They also create new learning and research partnerships to benefit the nation.

Ian Chubb retired in February this year as the University's longest serving Vice-Chancellor having led the University through a much needed period of organisational and cultural change with

determination, confidence and integrity. In the words of a member of the ANU Council he “re-energised, re-philosophised, recapitalized and rebuilt the whole University.”

During his career Ian Chubb has made major professional contributions to higher education and is known as a fearless spokesman for the sector. He has served, for example, as Chair of the Commonwealth Higher Education Council, as President and Vice-President of the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee and as a member of numerous boards and committees in the public and private sectors associated with research, education and public policy. He continues his public service with his appointment by Prime Minister Julia Gillard in April this year, as Chief Scientist for Australia.

In 1999 Professor Chubb was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for “service to the development of higher education policy and its implementation at state, national and international levels, as an administrator in the tertiary education sector, and to research particularly in the field of neuroscience”. In 2006 he was appointed a Companion of the Order for “service to higher education, including research and development policy in the pursuit of advancing the national interest socially, economically, culturally and environmentally, and to the facilitation of a knowledge-based global economy”. He was named ACT Australian of the Year in 2011 for his contribution to higher education.

Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Ian William Chubb, that you may confer on him the degree of Doctor of the University, *honoris causa*, on the grounds of his outstanding service to the University and his distinguished contributions in the service of society, and to higher education in particular.

Professor Ian Young
Vice-Chancellor
The Australian National University
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