

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY

Citation for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*

Dr Andrew Cannon AM, BA, LLB *Adel*, LLM, PhD *W'gong*

Dr Cannon is Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates Court of South Australia, having served as a magistrate since 1979. He has also served in several leading judicial roles including Acting Chief Magistrate; Deputy State Coroner; Chairman of the Commercial Tribunal (1996-1999); Senior Mining Warden (since 1988) and Inaugural member of the Residential Tenancy Tribunal (1978-1988). Dr Cannon's professional and academic achievements stem from a deep commitment to access to justice. In 2005 he was honoured with membership of the Order of Australia in recognition of his "...services to judicial administration, particularly through the reform of civil litigation processes and to the community through the *Falie* project and a range of charitable organisations." Dr Cannon's relationship with Flinders University is close and longstanding. He has been instrumental in enabling world-class empirical research into the Australian court system, as well directly involved in teaching mining law and civil procedure whilst producing his own research and publications.

Dr Cannon's academic qualifications include a double degree (1970) from Adelaide University (BA (Economics, History and Politics) and LLB). While employed full-time as a magistrate, he completed an LLM (Hons) by thesis (1996) followed by a PhD (2001), both from Wollongong University. Dr Cannon is also an experienced accredited qualified mediator. Dr Cannon maintains regular contact with university law schools as Adjunct Professor at Flinders Law School, at Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster, and at Universität Trier, Germany, where he delivers annual lectures on *Australian Constitutional Law and Court Systems*. Dr Cannon's academic credentials are reinforced through extensive publication in Australian and international scholarly journals in and professional practice publications. Given the time demands of magistrates' daily work, this is an exceptional achievement.

Dr Cannon has initiated and implemented several important reforms, especially as Senior Supervising Magistrate for civil matters (1992-2002), including re-writing the civil rules and associated forms; introducing fixed rate cost scales in civil cases; developing a program of court-provided mediation for small claims and pre-trial civil matters; and initiating a system of court-appointed experts in civil matters. These initiatives make tangible contributions to enhancing access to justice in South Australia. More recently he has managed the Magistrates Court Therapeutic Jurisprudence and Family Violence Programs. His involvement with Indigenous justice initiatives is longstanding, beginning with work for the Aboriginal Legal Rights movement in the 1970s, organising programs promoting judicial understanding of Aboriginal justice issues, through to his current role in Aboriginal Sentencing Conferences. In his role as Senior Warden he developed the jurisprudence around the competing interests of landowners and miners in South Australia and successfully encouraged a culture of resolution by negotiation rather than conflict. Outside Australia, Dr Cannon has experience of courts in Germany, the Netherlands, Belfast and Paris. He has been approached by judges of the higher courts in Hong Kong, and also Australian jurisdictions, for information about court reform.

Dr Cannon makes additional voluntary contributions through his role in the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration (AIJA). As a longstanding member of the AIJA Council, Dr Cannon has been actively involved in organising local, national and international judicial education programs.

Dr Cannon's involvement with Flinders University has extended over many years. In 1999, he had a leading role in initiating and supporting a significant research project on the Australian judiciary, through the Association of Australian Magistrates. With Dr Cannon's continued support and assistance, the Project has gone on to develop extensive research collaborations with all courts in Australia. He designed and delivered the Mining Law topic and lectures regularly in civil procedure.

The award of a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* recognises Dr Cannon's contribution to the law, academia and the community.