

Professor Warwick Anderson AM

Citation for conferral of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) Ceremony 2, Tuesday 28 April 2015, 11:00am

Chancellor, I present to you Warwick Anderson.

Warwick Anderson was until recently the Chief Executive Officer of the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia's major governmental funding body for health and medical research. Professor Anderson held this key leadership role since 2006 but recently accepted a prestigious position in Strasbourg as Secretary-General of the Human Frontier Science Program. He will be commencing his new role in July 2015.

Warwick Anderson obtained his PhD from the University of Adelaide in 1972. He went on to become Head of the School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University and Deputy Director of the Baker Medical Research Institute, following research fellowships at the University of Sydney and Harvard Medical School. His research has focused on renal causes of hypertension, including the roles of renal vascular remodeling, renal innervation and the renin-angiotensin system. He has published over 170 peer review articles.

Until September 2013 he was a member of the Prime Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council, the Australian Research Council and the Coordinating Committee of Innovation. He is a Board member of the Global Alliance for Chronic Disease, a member of Heads of International (Biomedical) Research Organisations and of the National Lead Clinicians Group. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia and an International Fellow of the American Heart Foundation. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005.

As CEO of NHMRC he reported directly to the Minister for Health and Ageing. He was responsible for the establishment of the NHMRC as an independent statutory agency and achieved a 60% increase in research funding. In this role Professor Anderson renewed NHMRC's peer review processes, introducing new on-line systems for application and peer review, established funding vehicles to support newly developing research fields and reformed NHMRC's health guidelines processes. He established communication and strategic approaches with Australia's Universities and Institutes, established an Australian ethical framework for research misconduct and successfully administered Australia's stem cell and embryo experimentation legislation. He developed a number of initiatives essential to Australia's current health reform agenda and committed substantial NHMRC research funding to improving Aboriginal health through evidence-based health policies. He has developed productive alliances with national research funding bodies such as the ARC, charity funding bodies and State governments.

Professor Anderson greatly expanded NHMRC's international research support including through the Global Alliance for Chronic Disease and the International Cancer Genome Consortium having established bilateral research funding agreements with the National Medical Research Council of Singapore, National Natural Science Foundation of China, and the Californian Institute of Regenerative Medicine. He has also facilitated partnerships with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the New Zealand Health Research Council on Indigenous peoples' research and supported the partnership between the NHMRC and the Wellcome Trust in public health research in Southeast Asia.

Professor Anderson has worked closely with government Ministers in Health, Education, Innovation, Science and Research, with Prime Ministers of four Governments and with a wide range of senior officials and the private sector leaders. He has been a member of many Departmental and interdepartmental bodies within the Commonwealth Government and national research coordinating bodies and has appeared before many parliamentary enquiries. He has represented Australia in Science and Technology agreements with the European Union and with China.

In summary he has been a highly influential figure in health and medical research in the country for many years serving his profession with distinction. I am very pleased and proud to present to you Professor Warwick Anderson, Bachelor of Science (Honours), Doctor of Philosophy, Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, International Fellow of the American Heart Foundation, Member of the Order of Australia, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).