

## **The Hon Dr John Bannon AO**

### **Citation for conferral of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) Ceremony 4, Wednesday 30 April 2014, 11:00am**

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you the Hon Dr John Bannon AO.

John Bannon was born in Bendigo, Victoria and attended Unley High School and St Peter's College in Adelaide. He completed degrees in Arts and Law at the University of Adelaide. While at university, he was a co-editor of the student newspaper *On Dit* in 1964. He was president of the Adelaide University Student Representative Council in 1966-67, president of the Adelaide University Union in 1969-1971 and president of the Australian Union of Students in 1968. Following the completion of his studies, he was an advisor to various governments, including that of Gough Whitlam.

He was elected to Ross Smith in the South Australian House of Assembly at the 1977 election and promoted to cabinet within a year. Following the resignation of Premier Don Dunstan and Labor's loss in the 1979 election, Dr Bannon was elected to the Labor leadership and led Labor to victory in the 1982 election.

The Labor government's achievements under his leadership included establishing the Olympic Dam copper and uranium mine, the submarine project, the defence industry, conversion of part of the Adelaide Railway Station into the Adelaide Convention Centre, the Hyatt and Adelaide Casino complex, and the staging of the Formula One Grand Prix. Other measures were introduced such as action to prevent destruction of vegetation and urban renewal programmes to invigorate some of the declining inner suburbs in Adelaide.

After retiring from politics, Dr Bannon undertook postgraduate research at Flinders University where he obtained a Ph.D. in Australian Political History. He was Master of St Mark's College from 2000 to 2007. On Australia Day 2007, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia. He authored *Supreme Federalist: The political life of Sir John Downer*, which was released in 2009. He is chair of the National Archives of Australia Advisory Council.

Dr Bannon is currently an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide specialising in constitutional history and federal/state relations.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa) — The Hon Dr John Bannon.