

Justice Margaret White

Citation for conferral of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) Ceremony 8, Friday 2 May 2014, 11:00am

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you Justice Margaret White AO.

Currently Margaret White was until recently a member of the Court of Appeal of Queensland. The Court of Appeal is the highest court in the State and deals with many of the most important cases in that jurisdiction.

Justice White graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1966. At university Justice White was the research assistant to Professor D.P. O'Connell who was one of the leading international lawyers of his generation. Justice White's interest in international law has remained with her since her time as an undergraduate at the Adelaide Law School. In 1966 and 1967 she was a consultant under a Ford Foundation Grant to the Governments of Guyana, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago dealing with issues of international law and application to domestic legislation.

Justice White was a lecturer at University of Queensland between 1970 and 1982 and was admitted Barrister to the Supreme Court in 1978. Commencing full-time practice at the Bar in 1983 she was involved in some of the most significant constitutional and common law cases of the period. These included the *Tasmania v Commonwealth (Tasmanian Dam's Case)* (1983) and *Mabo v Queensland (No 1)* (1988) and *Mabo v Queensland (No 2)* (1992).

In 1990 Justice White was appointed Master of the Supreme Court of Queensland. She was subsequently appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 1992 and in 2010 a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Queensland. During that time she was also a Presiding Member of the Land Appeal Court from 2006-2009 and was Chair of the Supreme Court Library Committee from 1998 - 2003.

Justice White has had a long and significant involvement with the Australian Defence Forces. She was first appointed Reserve Officer (Second Officer) after the Second World War in the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) from 1967 to 1974. She has had a long involvement in legal education for Naval cadets lecturing at the Royal Australian Naval College. She was recommissioned in 2003 as a Commander in the Naval Reserve and retired in 2010. She was a regular lecturer for the Inspector General Australian Defence Forces. Since 2008 she has been the Deputy President of the Defence Force Disciplinary Tribunal.

Justice White has had a long and important involvement in Higher Education in Queensland. She was Deputy Chancellor of the University of Queensland from 2006-2009 and a member of the Senate of that University from 1993- 2009.

Since 1993 she has been a member and Chair (2004) of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Selection Committee and a member of the Australian Board since 2004. In 2010 she was made Chair of the Board of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. She was a member of the International Law Association Australian Branch since 1963 and has been a President of the Queensland Branch. In 2005 Justice White was awarded a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* by the University of Queensland. She has been a member of the Military and Hospitaller order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem since 1985. She was a Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law. She was awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003 and in January 2013 Justice White was made Officer of the Order of Australia.

Justice White is a distinguished alumni of the University of Adelaide and of the Law School. She has since her graduation 1966 been a leading member of the legal profession and an outstanding member of the community. She has made a significant contribution to the law and legal education in Australia.

I am very pleased and proud to present to you Chancellor, for admission to the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) — Justice Margaret White.