

## **The Hon. Christopher Maurice Pyne**

*Approved by Christopher 29/2/21*

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa): The Honourable **Christopher Maurice Pyne**.

This award is being bestowed on Mr Pyne in recognition of his career contribution to the state and the nation in advancing defence, industry and educational opportunities, through his role as a Cabinet Minister of Federal Government and Member in the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Christopher Pyne demonstrated an early enthusiasm for politics, which was cultivated during his time as a Law student at the University of Adelaide. He was President of the Adelaide University Liberal Club from 1987 to 1988, and became President of the South Australian Young Liberals from 1988 to 1990.

While still in his early 20s, he set his sights on Canberra, and in 1993 he was successful in winning election at the age of 25, as the Member for Sturt in South Australia.

Mr Pyne served as a front bench member in Government and Opposition for 16 years, including six years as a Cabinet Minister in the key portfolios of Education, Industry Innovation and Science, Defence Industry, and Defence. At his retirement from politics in 2019, he was the longest serving non-Labor member of the House of Representatives from South Australia since Federation.

A passionate and hard-working advocate for enhancing Australia's defence capability, Mr Pyne was responsible for implementing the largest modernisation of the Australian Defence Force since the Second World War, increasing the Australian Government's investment in defence capability to almost \$200 billion and laying the foundation for a strong defence industry sector for decades to come.

In doing so, he also secured the \$50 billion Future Submarines project for South Australia, to build the Attack class fleet.

His advocacy and leadership in the defence portfolio and for South Australia was widely recognised in the Federal Parliament and beyond – and it has been recognised here at the University of Adelaide. As a leader in defence research for Australia, the University of Adelaide has benefitted from Mr Pyne's advocacy and support for opportunities in his home state.

The Naval Shipbuilding Plan, announced in 2017 by Mr Pyne and former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, is the largest naval shipbuilding and sustainment program ever undertaken in Australia.

It is widely acknowledged by defence industry leaders that the Shipbuilding Plan will provide long-term certainty for the industry, fuelling innovation and growth for small to medium enterprises. Delivering employment opportunities in a wide range of roles for more than 5000 shipbuilding workers in the next few years, those numbers are expected to double across the supply chains that support the sector.

An advocate for science technology and education, Mr Pyne also developed the National Innovation and Science Agenda, which delivered more than a billion dollars to underpin research and industry collaboration, skills development, and support for innovative start-ups.

He reformed the national curriculum and expanded phonics teaching in remote schools in northern Australia.

Mr Pyne was also responsible for creating the youth mental health initiative Headspace in 2006, which works with young people to strengthen their ability to manage their mental health through a range of programs across Australia.

In a long career of dedicated public service, Mr Pyne has been an agent for change, committed to providing opportunities for his community.

Chancellor, I am pleased to present to you The Honourable **Christopher Pyne**, Bachelor of Laws, Graduate Diploma Legal Practice, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (honoris causa).