

## **Patricia Perrurle Ansell Dodds (Auntie Pat)**

Chancellor,

I have the pleasure of presenting Patricia Perrurle Ansell Dodds (Auntie Pat) with an Honorary Doctor of Letters today.

An esteemed Arrente and Anmatjere Elder Auntie Pat has long been a respected figure within Central Australia communities and beyond.

Aunty Pat has been a voice for the people of Central Australia for decades and has worked as an interpreter, mediator, and educator across several disciplines, including health, education and cross-cultural training.

In the late 1980's her father, a survivor of the Stolen Generation and World War II Veteran, encouraged her to return to university to get a western education so she could better serve her people in Central Australia as they advocated for land rights, healthcare, and improved quality of life. In 1999 Auntie Pat, at the age of 50, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from LaTrobe University.

During this time Auntie Pat was involved in many of the major land claims around Central Australia including her father's homelands around Mount Undoolya. Auntie Pat often served as an intermediary, a voice for her people, engaged with organisations and government agencies. She went on to represent more land claims and sat on Boards to ensure her

people were being heard. Following her work locally Auntie Pat also represented the voice of Central Australian peoples at several international Aboriginal conferences in Canada, United States and Scotland.

In 2009, Auntie Pat was asked to join the team at the Centre for Remote Health, at the time a collaboration between Charles Darwin University and Flinders University. Auntie Pat led one of their signature units, “Framing Indigenous Health,” offered as part of their postgraduate programs. In 2016 Auntie Pat received the Executive Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award from Flinders University for her work that helped improve healthcare delivery to rural and remote patients in the Northern Territory.

Auntie Pat is a published author and esteemed artist who uses these multi modal expressions to share her knowledge and culture with the rest of Australia and beyond. In 2018 Auntie Pat was part of the Badu Gili Sydney Opera’s House First Nations program and her artwork was projected on the Sails of the Sydney Opera House.

Auntie Pat was a prominent advocate for The Voice and is a member of the “Strong Grandmothers” group who are addressing the challenges with youth in Alice Springs.

Auntie Pat has a unique ability to walk in both worlds, is a custodian of culture, and a beacon of hope for the future of First Nations people in the Northern Territory, Australia and beyond.

She has made significant contributions to the health, well-being, and advancement of First Nations Australians in addition to the development and advancement of the Northern Territory.

Chancellor,

In recognition of her activism for greater social justice for First Nations people, in particular the younger generations, Charles Darwin University Council awards Ms Patricia Perrurle Ansell Dodds (Auntie Pat) the title of Honorary Doctor of Letters.