

CHANCELLOR,

I have the honour to present to you *in-absentia* Peter James Plummer whom Council has determined should be awarded the Doctor of Education *Honoris Causa*

In recognition of his distinguished career in the service to the people of the Northern Territory, particularly the area of post-secondary education leadership, he has been awarded by the Council of Charles Darwin University, the degree of Doctor of Education *Honoris Causa*.

Peter Plummer is a well known and respected Territorian. Prior to his retirement he had spent some 40 years working in public service in the in Papua New Guinea and the Northern Territory. It is during his 24 years in the Northern Territory where it can be said he made his most significant contributions to society.

Peter Plummer had a varied career within the Northern Territory. Arriving here in 1980 Peter Plummer was the founding principal of Batchelor College, he then moved on to assume the roles of Chief Executive of the Department of Mines and Energy, Chief Executive of the Department of Health and Community Services and also Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training.

During his time in the public sector he was responsible for implementing a range of social and economic initiatives for the benefit of Territorians. As Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training he also oversaw a stronger focus on Indigenous education, as well as making the department a leader in education research and data analysis.

Peter Plummer also served on many board and committees including the Cullen Bay Management Corporation, Menzies School of Health Research, the National Curriculum Corporation, the CDU Council and the CDU Strategic Positioning Project.

It was during Peter Plummer's tenure as Chief Executive of the Department of Education and Training that plans were commenced for the creation of the new Charles Darwin University. As a member of the CDU Strategic Positioning Project he played a pivotal role in the planning for and negotiations with the 4 institutions that came together to form the new institution.

From those early days our University has grown to where we are today with over 6,300 higher education students, more than 12,300 vocational education and training students and more than 1,300 staff. We deliver education and training across 8 campuses, at over 170 drive-through locations and via distance education.

CHANCELLOR,

Peter Plummer cannot be with us this evening. To collect the award on his behalf is Associate Professor Tess Lea.