

Citation for Noel Hayman
Doctor of Medicine (*honoris causa*)
Wednesday, 21 April 2021 – 4.30pm

Vice-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Professor Noel Hayman to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (*honoris causa*) in recognition of his remarkable contributions in the field of medicine, particularly in relation to the health of Indigenous Australians.

Professor Noel Hayman is a Wakka Wakka and Kalkadoon Aboriginal man who became one of the first two Indigenous medical students to graduate from the University of Queensland in 1990. He is currently a public health physician and general practitioner and holds academic appointments at the School of Medicine at the University of Queensland and Griffith University, School of Medicine. Through his research and clinical practice, Professor Hayman has successfully improved the health outcomes of Indigenous peoples.

In 1995, Noel established an Indigenous health clinic as part of the Inala Community Health Centre. The Inala Indigenous Health Service rapidly expanded under his leadership and, in 2013, moved to the purpose-built Southern Queensland Centre of Excellence in Indigenous Primary Health Care. The centre was designed to combine research and teaching with health care. What began as a GP clinic became a truly multidisciplinary integrated practice under Noel's guidance, with regular visiting specialists and staff members working in a range of areas including psychology, social work, midwifery and chronic disease education. Noel continues to act as Clinical Director of the centre. Through his role as Clinical Director and his work for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Professor Hayman is actively involved in increasing the health community's exposure to Indigenous health issues, recruiting and training Indigenous doctors, and supporting Indigenous and non-Indigenous health professionals to apply mainstream primary health care services to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Noel's research has largely focused on improving the health outcomes of Indigenous Australians, and has had a strong focus on preventative medicine. He has led a number of research projects centred on Indigenous health and has played a key role in several statewide health promotion initiatives in Queensland. His research has involved collaboration with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around Australia, as well as with national and international networks of senior researchers and clinicians.

He has generously shared his expertise in research, policy, Indigenous health and primary care through his involvement with a variety of organisations at both state and national levels. Noel chaired the RACP Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Advisory Committee for many years, and served on a number of other RACP committees. He held a Ministerial appointment on the NHMRC Council from 2012 to 2015, served as a member of the Expert Advisory Group on Structural Review of the NHMRC's grant program and was Advisor to the Rudd Government's Close the Gap program. He was one of the founding members of the Australian Indigenous Doctors' Association, a not-for-profit professional association supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander medical students and doctors.

Noel's innovative models of care and expertise are also recognised internationally. He has been invited to speak at numerous international conferences, including the World Health Summit in Montreal, the 7th Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors' Congress in Taiwan and the United Nations' Human Rights Council Social Forum in Switzerland. Noel is also a Fellow of the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australasian College of General Practice.

Professor Hayman has received many honours and awards in recognition of his immense contributions to Indigenous health. He received the Centenary Medal in 2003, the inaugural Close the Gap Indigenous Health Award in 2007 and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Deadly Award in 2008. In 2010, he received the prestigious College Medal of the RACP. In 2013 he was awarded The University of Queensland Gold medal and in 2020 he received the Australian Medical Association Queensland (AMAQ) Gold medal. He was named Queensland's Australian of the Year in 2011 and received the President's Medal of the Australian Medical Association Queensland in 2013. A keynote address given at the biennial National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference in Australia was named the "Noel Hayman Oration" in his honour. Noel has been listed by the NHMRC as one of the Top 100 Higher Achievers in Australian Health and Medical Research.

Noel's work has made outstanding contributions to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Australia and of Indigenous peoples internationally. He has been a leader in delivering accessible and appropriate quality primary care for Indigenous peoples and has influenced the thinking of health professionals and policymakers in Australia and abroad.

Vice-Chancellor, I present Professor Noel Hayman for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (*honoris causa*) and invite you to confer the degree upon him.