

Citation – Adjunct Professor Scott Wilson

Conferral Date – 4 December 2025

[Presiding Officer], it gives me great pleasure to present Adjunct Professor Scott Wilson to you for admission as an Honorary Fellow of the University in recognition of his outstanding work in the field of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health.

Scott is an Aboriginal man of the stolen generation from Darwin, whose work has led him to informing health professionals and policy makers both here in Australia and across the globe. He has made major impacts to the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities around Australia, and to First Nations peoples internationally.

Scott is a strong advocate for evidence-based care in alcohol and other drug use among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and among the broader Australian community. He is founding CEO of the Aboriginal Drug and Alcohol Council South Australia Aboriginal Corporation and has been at the corporation's helm for more than 30 years. Under Scott's leadership, it has grown into a major provider of innovative services to vulnerable Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people across South Australia. Services include drop-in 'Day Centres' that provide health and other practical support to transient populations, harm reduction services to injecting drug users, Offender Residential Service in Port Augusta and Offender programs in 7 of the state's prisons along with alcohol and other drugs residential rehabilitation centre in Port Augusta and Adelaide.

In recent years, Scott played a key role in the research and development of the Grog App – a survey and health promotion tool, designed to collect data that more accurately reflects the nation's drinking habits than current metrics. Scott has been a chief investigator on continuous National Health and Medical Research Council funding through the University of Sydney, since 2015. All this research has been conducted in partnership with Aboriginal Community Controlled services and communities. Between 2017-23, Scott was joint director of the Centre of Research Excellence in Indigenous Health and Alcohol and chaired its Indigenous Advisory Group. The CRE has supported 14 Aboriginal members in research in the field of alcohol research. Their work has resulted in over 50 publications, ranging from prevention to treatment, and in settings from community to residential rehabilitation. Scott has played a key role in research projects totalling more than \$18 million awarded to the University of Sydney. Scott's contribution was recognised in 2017 by his appointment as Adjunct Associate Professor at the university.

In addition to this, Scott has led the conversation regarding both drug use and policy for decades. He was active in raising public and government awareness of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder long before it was widely recognised. He also raised awareness of the increasing rate of methamphetamine use, long before the official data detected this trend. He was a prime ministerial appointment to the Australian National Council on Drugs and a ministerial appointment of the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Committee, the latter of which he served to as Deputy Co-Chair. Scott served as Board Director, then as Deputy Chair of The Alcohol Education and Research Foundation, working to reduce harms from alcohol. Currently, Scott sits on the board of the Pennington Institute. Regarding his international presence, in 2008, Scott was the Australian delegate to the United Nations "Beyond 2008" International Non-Governmental Organizations Forum. Most recently, Scott has been asked to present to the United Nations in relation to First Nations peoples and substance use in Vienna.

Scott's contributions have been recognised by several awards, including, First Peoples Award of the Australasian Professional Association of Alcohol and Other Drugs, the Honour Roll of the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Conference; Australian Centenary Medal (for services to the Indigenous community and wider Australian population) and an Australia Day Medal from the Alcohol and Drug Council of Australia. When Scott graduated with a Masters in Indigenous Health (Substance Use) with Merit from the University of Sydney in 2012, he was also awarded the Sister Alison Bush Medal.

[Presiding Officer], I present to you Adjunct Professor Scott Wilson and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.