



## **THE HON G F KIM SANTOW AO – FORMER CHANCELLOR (2001–07)**

The Hon Kim Santow held the position of Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Fellow of Senate from 2 October 2001 to 31 May 2007.

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### **PROFILE**

(1941 - 2008)

AO, BA LL.M. *Sydney*

#### **Fellow of Senate and Chancellor 2001 - 2007**

The Hon Kim Santow held the position of Chancellor of the University of Sydney from 2 October 2001 to 31 May 2007.

He was a Judge in the Supreme Court of New South Wales Court of Appeal from 2002 to 2007 when he retired, having earlier served as a judge in the Equity Division since 1993 where he was in charge of the Corporations List. From 1965 until 1993, he was a partner at the firm then known as Freehill Hollingdale & Page involved in commercial and international work. He became the first solicitor in recent times to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court without prior service as a Barrister or Master of the Court. For over 30 years, he was a part-time lecturer in the Master of Laws program of the University of Sydney and subsequently University of New South Wales. He has written a number of articles and reviews on law and wider subjects.

Kim held the position of Chancellor of the University of Sydney from 2 October 2001 to 31 May 2007. A graduate of the University and a University Blue in rowing, he is a continuing member of the Sydney University Boat Club.

He acquired practical experience in business, serving as a director of a number of companies, public and private. He was also a member of various States and Federal Government and other expert committees. These included the Legal Sub-Committee advising the Commonwealth Attorney-General on Company Law and Securities and the New South Wales Government Task Force formed to promote Sydney as an international financial centre.

In 1990, he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for community work which included service as director or trustee of a number of community organisations including the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children (Chair), the Council of the Asia-Australia Institute of the University of New South Wales, the Sydney Opera House, Art Gallery of New South Wales, VisAsia, St Vincent's Hospital and Sydney Grammar School (Chair).

The Hon Kim Santow retired as Chancellor of the University on 31 May 2007. He had announced at the 5 February 2007 meeting of Senate that he would stand down as Chancellor when his term of office came to an end on 31 May 2007. Read the Chancellor's statement to Senate below:

## **Election of Chancellor**

Six months ago I reached a firm decision that I would not offer myself for election for a further term of four years. The paramount reason is one of principle. By the end of May of this year I will have served 5½ years. The first 1½ years were the balance of Dame Leonie Kramer's term and I was then re-elected for a further four years. Put simply, it is my conviction that 9½ years would be too long for a Chancellor to serve Sydney University in this contemporary era.

I have loved every minute of my time at the University, even some of the fraught ones. I intend, with your support, to complete with undiminished vigour my remaining months till the end of May. And I will make sure that my successor, whoever he or she may be, takes over with my fullest support.

Harold Bloom, known I am sure to Margaret Harris as one of the great Shakespearean scholars, has a wonderful meditation on the subject "Completing the Work". Some 1,750 years ago, Rabbi Tarphon spoke these words which I have long cherished: "It is not necessary for you to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it".

I said that I came to this decision six months ago. I did not consider I was subsequently free to desist from the task of making sure we had a proper process for selection of the next Vice-Chancellor – surely one of the most crucial appointments that Senate ever has to make. But it is no less important than Senate's choice of my successor. Choosing a Chancellor calls for the same impartiality, objectivity and wisdom as choosing a Vice-Chancellor. In Professor Gavin Brown, the University continues to enjoy visionary leadership allied to a clear and realistic assessment of what is necessary if we are to achieve the moral and intellectual tasks that are fundamental to a great university. He especially would recognise the importance of making sure his successor knows who is the next Chancellor.

I have wanted to share this decision with the whole of Senate and with Gavin's senior executive group – all of you individuals of extraordinary dedication and accomplishment. Senate is choosing a Chancellor not just for it but for the University as a whole. That is why it is fitting that the senior executive group should be present. No less important are the vital constituencies of this University. I mean our staff, academic and general, our alumni and our students for whom we serve, as well as the wider community. All are represented on the Senate, charged to place the interests of the University above all else.

I have chosen this time with some care for making clear my own intentions. Had I done so earlier, we would not have had in place a process for selecting the next Vice-Chancellor at a time when stability at the top was important. As you know, the last preparatory step was taken only last week when the Selection Committee chose David Pumphrey and his firm Heidrick & Struggles to assist it. We also needed to see to successful accomplishment securing the US Studies Centre where I played a role both in confidence-building and in working with the Vice-Chancellor and Don Nutbeam to secure the critical elements of a successful bid. In saying that, I want to emphasise how indispensable has been the role of others and in particular the Vice-Chancellor, the Provost, Sean Gallagher and his team and most importantly, Professor Robert O'Neill.

The time from February to May for a proper process to select the next Chancellor will be sufficient – neither too much nor too little. I have asked Bill Adams to whom I have turned because of his independent role as Secretary to the Senate, to give thought to how that process should be best achieved and to place that before the Senate for consideration. I have not seen what he has proposed. My only injunction to him, recognising that Senate is ultimately sovereign in these matters, is that the process should give confidence to the Senate that we will secure the best person, whether internal or external, as Chancellor of the University. I might add that had my decision been that I would have wished to seek a further term I would still have proposed that there be a proper process for determining who is best to lead the University for the next four years. Such a process should ensure Senate is best informed about prospective candidates, who in turn need to have confidence that their names will be kept confidential to Senate alone. This is a reflection of the task that I set myself 5½ years ago when I became Chancellor – both to bring healing and with your backing to ensure that our governance has integrity, is as free of politics as possible, and puts in place proper processes for succession based on merit and nothing else. Above all, I have tried to encourage mutual respect within Senate, between town, gown and students, and between Senate and our senior management.

I will now ask Bill Adams to take you through the process that he proposes. Now is most certainly not the time to discuss particular names for Chancellor. Rather it is to allow all of you to be satisfied that, putting the interests of the University ahead of all others, you are in a position to select the very best person.

G F K Santow  
Chancellor  
5 February 2007

NOTE: Senate subsequently adopted proper procedures for the election of the next Chancellor.

### **End of the Chancellor's statement to Senate.**

In the June 2007 Queen's Birthday Honours he was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for service to the judiciary and the law, to education governance, and to the arts.

The Chancellor Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Kim at a ceremony held on 27 March 2008.

Kim died peacefully after a short illness on 10 April 2008.

### **Chancellor, University of Sydney 2001 - 2007**

The Hon Kim Santow held the position of Chancellor of the University of Sydney and Fellow of Senate from 2 October 2001 to 31 May 2007.

## **Farewell as Chancellor, May 2007**

The Hon Kim Santow retired as Chancellor of the University of Sydney on 31 May 2007. A number of functions were held, including a reception in the Great Hall to farewell the Chancellor and mark the unveiling of his Official Portrait by Lewis Miller, and a farewell Fellows' Dinner in the Forum Restaurant, Darlington Centre, hosted by the Vice-Chancellor.

## **2007 - 2008**

Officer in the Order of Australia, June 2007

In the June 2007 Queen's Birthday Honours Kim was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for service to the judiciary and the law, to education governance, and to the arts.

Honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, 27 March 2008

The Chancellor Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Kim at a ceremony held in hospital on 27 March 2008.

Retirement, 14 December 2007

Kim served as a Judge in the Supreme Court of New South Wales Court of Appeal from 2002 and retired on 14 December 2007.

## **In memoriam**

Kim died peacefully after a short illness, on 10 April 2008.

A Memorial Ceremon to celebrate the life of the Hon Kim Santow was held in the Great Hall at 6.00pm on Wednesday, 23 April 2008.