

## Adam Roy Goodes

The honorary degree of Doctor of Health Sciences was conferred upon Adam Goodes by the Pro-Chancellor, Mr Peter FitzSimons AM at a Faculty of Health Sciences graduation at 4.00pm on 28 September 2017.

### Citation

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Adam Roy Goodes to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Health Sciences (honoris causa) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Australian society.

An Adnyamathanha and Narungga man, Adam is one of the most accomplished football players the Australian Football League has seen.

Adam began playing Australian Rules football while in school, and at age 16 he joined the under-18 club North Ballarat Rebels. Two years later he was drafted by the AFL Sydney Swans. In 1999 at age 19 he made his Swans debut and went on to win the season's Rising Star Award.

His AFL career achievements place him in an elite place in AFL history, winning two Brownlow Medals, the first Indigenous to do so, and two AFL premierships. He captained the Sydney Swans for four years from 2009 to 2012, is a four-time All-Australian team member, a member of the Indigenous Team of the Century, and has represented Australia in the International Rules Series. He has been awarded the Bob Skilton Medal, recognising the best and fairest in his team, three times.

Adam founded and chaired the Indigenous Advisory Board of the AFL Players Association to provide the players a voice to help make the AFL a supportive workplace for Indigenous players from its inception in 2011 to 2016. Adam ended his on field football career in 2015 after a record 372 games, surpassing the previous record of 340 games.

However, this honorary award is not only about Adam's football career, it is about so much more.

This award is also a recognition of his many other achievements, qualities and contributions to Australian society. Adam is a leader and well-respected role model for the wider Aboriginal community and has advocated for Aboriginal and human rights generally, against racism, for his people and culture and in support of connections between all Australians.

Adam is actively involved with several Aboriginal sport and community programs and has spent time working with troubled youth, including those in youth detention centres.

In 2009, together with his cousin and former teammate Michael O'Loughlin and James Gallichan, Adam established the Go Foundation in the NSW town of Dareton whose population was around 600, with a third being of Indigenous or Torres Strait Islander heritage. The Foundation focused on promoting vocational training, employment and healthy lifestyles. Over the next three years GO participated in various community programmes in Dareton before redefining its focus to education, with the belief that education is the key to creating a brighter future for Indigenous Australians. The GO Foundation now empowers the next generation of Indigenous role models via scholarships in partnership with various organisations including the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation.

Adam is currently CEO on the Indigenous Defence Consortium or IDC, a national single point deployment project providing a diverse range of services via its consortium partners, all of whom are Indigenous owned businesses. IDC's current clients of their partner businesses include over 25 federal and state Government departments and 30 of Australia's top 100 companies across a diverse range of businesses, including building and construction, fixed plant maintenance, fleet management, telecommunications, security, IT and corporate gifts.

In January 2014, Adam was named Australian of the Year for his work with indigenous youth community programs and his firm yet compassionate campaign against racism. During his tenure as Australian of the Year Adam spoke widely and engaged people across our nation. He did not shy away from the difficult issues and always acted with dignity and purpose. He has been generous with his time and has sought to make sure that despite his tremendous success he gives future generations real opportunity and hope. He has also been an ambassador for over 10 years for White Ribbon Australia, an organisation working to end domestic violence against women.

Adam is a champion on and off the field. His sporting achievements are remarkable but don't define him entirely, he is larger than football. His dedication to human rights, the fight against racism and to helping young Aboriginal people, have made an indelible mark on the Australian landscape.

Pro-Chancellor, I present Adam Goodes for admission to the degree of Doctor of Health Sciences (honoris causa), and I invite you to confer the degree upon him.