

Citation – Aunty Pam Greer

23 April 2026

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Aunty Pam Greer for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (honoris causa).

Pam Greer, a Barkindji Ngayampaa Elder from far west NSW, has been a national leader in preventing domestic and sexual violence in Aboriginal communities for more than 40 years. Her work in violence prevention and promoting women's human rights, led to her selection as an Australian representative at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, and her induction into the NSW Aboriginal Health Hall of Fame in 2008.

Pam's approach has always been centred on careful listening, culturally grounded engagement, and long-term relationship building – all of which are essential to engaging in difficult conversations. She provided community education and training across NSW, recognising that trust develops over sustained engagement, rather than one-off visits.

Pam has played leading roles in initiatives that helped Aboriginal women speak about painful issues, long silenced by fear of racism and community repercussions. This includes coordinating the first Aboriginal Women United Conference in Dubbo in 1990, consulting with Aboriginal women to include their voices in the NSW 1993 Sexual Assault Phone-in, and the Women Out West program delivering women's legal, health and violence prevention services to rural women, with sessions often held informally on riverbanks. Pam's approach reshaped the idea of "community outreach" whereby culturally safe environments ensure Aboriginal women's comfortable participation—many hearing for the first time that domestic violence was a crime, and that they had rights.

Pam's outstanding contribution has been her commitment to partnering with non-Aboriginal colleagues. In the mid-1980s, she invited the newly formed group that became NSW Health's Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV), to work with her in Aboriginal communities, shaping ECAV's early and ongoing commitment to Aboriginal-led practice.

Pam went on to lead major ECAV education programs, including Strong Aboriginal Women and child protection program - Weaving the Net, for more than 20 years. Her work helped establish ECAV's unique Aboriginal Education team staffed by skilled Aboriginal workers and contributed to the development of ECAV's education pathway: Certificate IV in Aboriginal Family Health, Advanced Diploma in Aboriginal Specialist Trauma Counselling, and in partnership with the University of Sydney in 2014, the Graduate Certificate in Human and Community Services (Interpersonal Trauma).

Aunty Pam views her work with non-Aboriginal colleagues as practical reconciliation, strengthening both community knowledge and the cultural capability of non-Aboriginal service providers to better support Aboriginal women and children experiencing violence.

Presiding Pro-Chancellor, I present to you Aunty Pam Greer and invite you to confer the degree upon her.