

Citation for Dorothy Hoddinott AO
Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*)
Wednesday, 14 April 2021 – 4.30pm

Vice-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Dorothy Hoddinott AO to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) in recognition of her outstanding contributions to public education, and training, social justice and human rights.

Dorothy graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts, a Diploma of Education and a Master of Arts. During her time as a student, she served on the Board of the then Women's Union, was a contributing cartoonist to *Honi Soit* and was involved in the original committee that worked to establish International House. She debated for the Women's Union and played A Grade squash for the University until 1987. Dorothy was a founding Director of the University of Sydney Union Foundation and served on its Board from 1996 until 2005. She played A Grade squash for the University until 1987.

During her career, Dorothy taught at Beverly Hills Girls' High School, the Downs School for Girls UK, the International School of Milan, Punchbowl Boys' High School, Leichhardt High School, Bankstown Boys' High School as Head Teacher English and Wiley Park Girls' High School as Leading Teacher. She was Principal of Holroyd High School from 1995 until her retirement in 2018. Holroyd High School is a disadvantaged school in Western Sydney, comprising a largely recently arrived immigrant and refugee community, including asylum seekers. Under her leadership, the school achieved remarkable success in the provision of programs to support students who had experienced trauma, displacement, and disrupted education. The school received the Director-General's School Achievement Award for its English as a Second Language programs in 2001 and was shortlisted for the Australian Human Rights Commission's Community Award in 2012.

Dorothy has been a strong public advocate for children's rights, especially those of refugees, in a range of forums, serving as NSW Secondary Principals' Council representative on the NSW Director-General's Advisory Group for Multicultural Education and Training and the NSW Department of Education and Training Gender Equity Group. She has addressed the concerns of asylum seeker children directly with Government and with universities and established scholarship funds through the Public Education Foundation, the National Foundation for Australian Women, and the Sydney Community Foundation to provide financial support for refugee and asylum seeker students. She negotiated with NSW universities and the NSW Department of Education to establish refugee support programs to provide tutoring and mentoring for refugee students and was successful in establishing tertiary scholarships for students with temporary protection visas.

As an officer and later a member of the NSW Board of Studies, Dorothy was instrumental in the implementation of appropriate English language syllabuses for students from non-English speaking backgrounds. Throughout her professional career, Dorothy played a leadership role in the development of specific standards to meet the learning needs of students for whom English is a second language, including training of mainstream teachers in the language, literacy and welfare needs of recently arrived students of non-English speaking background. Dorothy served on NSW English Syllabus Committees from 1979 to 1994.

She has held the position of President of the NSW Association of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and the NSW Joint Council of Professional Teachers' Associations (now the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW), and in 2002, authored the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW's Human Rights Policy. She was instrumental in the establishment of the Australian Council of TESOL Associations, and of the Australian Joint Council of Professional Teachers' Associations (now the Australian Professional Teachers' Association) and was inaugural President of the Australian Joint Council. She is a Fellow of the Australian College of Educators, the Australian Council for Educational Leadership, and the Royal Society of NSW. Dorothy is one of Australia's most widely recognised school leaders. Through her leadership and advocacy, teachers' professional associations have gained a national voice in educational policy development and decision-making.

Dorothy has a deep, lifelong commitment to social justice. In recognition of her work, she was made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Sydney in 2006 and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2008. In 2012, she was awarded the Medal of the Australian College of Educators, the first time the medal had been awarded to an educator working in a school. In 2014, she was conferred with a Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) by Western Sydney University for service to public education in Western Sydney and advocacy and support of refugee communities. Dorothy was commended in the New South Wales Meritorious Service to Public Education and Training Awards in 2005 and was awarded the Australian Human Rights Medal in 2014 in recognition of her work protecting the human rights of refugee and disadvantaged students. She was shortlisted for the NSW International Women's Day Honour Roll and Woman of the Year Awards in 2006 and 2016 and selected as one of Westpac's 100 Women of Influence in 2016. Dorothy served two terms as a Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate from 2010 to 2017 and was a Pro-Chancellor for the final three years of her tenure. She is currently a Presiding Pro-Chancellor of the University and continues to be an active member of the University community.

Dorothy is Ambassador for the Refugee Advice and Casework Service of NSW and a Director of Career Seekers, which supports refugees and asylum seekers into the professional work force. She is Patron of the Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group.

Dorothy is a person of integrity and determination, who has made an outstanding contribution to public education and human rights advocacy through her work as a leading educator in public schools, her close association with the NSW Board of Studies and her involvement with state and national professional organisations and with universities and human rights organisations. Her efforts to improve the educational potential of immigrants and refugees and to promote human rights policy and practice are commendable.

Vice-Chancellor, I present Dorothy Hoddinott AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*) and invite you to confer the degree upon her.