

Dr Norelle Lickiss OA

The honorary degree of Doctor of Medical Science was conferred upon Norelle Lickiss by the Chancellor, Ms Belinda Hutchinson AM at a Faculty of Medicine graduation at 11.30am on 21 April 2017.

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Dr Norelle Lickiss AO for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medical Science (honoris causa) in recognition of her contribution to the fields of cancer medicine, palliative medicine, and medical education.

Dr Lickiss is a graduate of the University of Sydney Medical School. After postgraduate studies in Europe, she undertook community based research in Sydney and was awarded MD in 1971, her doctorate thesis being on *The Aboriginal People of Sydney with Special reference to the Health of their Children: a study in Human Ecology*. Dr Lickiss is a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and Honorary Professor of University of Sydney and University Associate in the School of Medicine at the University of Tasmania.

Dr Lickiss is a medical academic who has undertaken a variety of scholarly activities during her career that span the full spectrum of health care. Her published research has covered such diverse topics as the epidemiologic aspects of myeloproliferative and lymphoproliferative disorders; in vitro drug selection in antineoplastic chemotherapy, and the role of alcohol in the etiology of hypertension. She has written and contributed to several academic publications, including *Perspectives on Human Dignity* (2007), *Perspectives on Human Suffering* (2012) and most recently *On Human Complexity* (2014).

Dr Lickiss is also a respected clinician, with several decades of experience as consultant physician in clinical practice in Hobart and Sydney. She joined University of Tasmania in 1970 as lecturer in medicine and in 1985 became Acting Head of Medicine and concurrently was appointed as Foundation Professor of Community Health (the first woman to be appointed Professor in the University of Tasmania). Her clinical practice was focussed particularly on cancer medicine.

In 1985, Dr Lickiss was invited to return to Sydney to become Director of Palliative Care at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital: this marked the beginning of an association which endured until 2009. During this period Dr Lickiss was also Clinical Associate Professor and later Clinical Professor at the University of Sydney. She also had a conjoint appointment as Director of Palliative Care at Prince of Wales Hospital and Royal Hospital for Women, and was, for 8 years, Associate Professor at the University of NSW. Whilst in these roles, she not only developed innovative modes of clinical service but also contributed significantly to the development of the clinical science of palliative medicine as an integral part of mainstream clinical practice as well as a specialty.

Dr Lickiss is recognised internationally as a medical educator. Her international educational and consultancy activity has included most Asian countries, particularly Iran and China, and it continues to this day. She has lectured in The Netherlands, Belgium, Austria and Argentina concerning palliative medicine as a constitutive part of the care of women with gynaecological cancer. To advance her educational objectives, she established the Sydney Institute of Palliative Medicine which continues 25 years later, and established a major training program in that discipline. Former trainees are now clinical leaders not only in Australia but also Hong Kong and Iran. She assisted the health authorities of both Indonesia and Iran to formulate national plans for cancer pain relief and palliative care. Dr Lickiss was World Health Organisation consultant to China in 1996 concerning cancer pain relief, and during the mid 90's, was one of two western doctors invited to Japan to celebrate the 400 year anniversary of the coming of Western thought to Japan.

Dr Lickiss has a long standing interest in the humanities, notably philosophy, and in interdisciplinary activities, particularly in the concept that persons from diverse intellectual backgrounds working together may enrich understanding of problematic aspects of the human condition. In the early 2000s, as Honorary Research Professor, UTAS she initiated a collaborative effort with the Head of the School of Philosophy at the University of Tasmania, in the form of an Interdisciplinary Colloquium Program which continues to flourish.

Her service to the development of palliative medicine was recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2003, with her being made an Officer (AO) in the General Division.

Chancellor, I present Dr Norelle Lickiss for admission to the degree of Doctor of Medical Science (honoris causa) and invite you to confer the degree upon her.