

Mr Kenneth Reed AM

For his outstanding service to the University of Sydney.

Honorary Fellow

Conferring ceremony: 13 May 2015

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Mr Kenneth Reed to you for the award of an Honorary Fellowship of the University of Sydney.

An alumnus of the University with bachelor's degrees in arts and law, Kenneth Reed is one of Australia's best-known philanthropists in the arts and culture. He was made a Member of the Order for Australia (AM) in 2013 for his significant service to the performing and visual arts, as a supporter and donor.

His 2005 donation to the Australian Ballet was the biggest one-off contribution in the company's history and, in 2007, he announced a bequest (then valued at \$7 million) to the Art Gallery of New South Wales. This public-spirited generosity reflects positively on the University community, within which he is an active participant.

Mr Reed has consistently promoted the value of tertiary education in general and of studies in the humanities in particular, through his public statements on the topic. He has repeatedly supported the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Sydney Law School and the University by attending reunions, lectures and other events. His insightful feedback on academic programs and alumni relations activities have been of invaluable assistance to deans past and present.

Mr Reed has for over two decades been a consistent supporter of University fundraising projects, in areas as diverse as University Strategic Priorities, Museums and Galleries, Student Scholarships, Rare Books and Special Collections, Sydney Law School and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The variety of these contributions indicates the breadth of his interests in tertiary education.

In 2013, Mr Reed elected to mark his special affection for English Studies through a transformational gift, endowing a postgraduate student scholarship in perpetuity. At the same moment he confirmed his planned bequest in order to establish several postdoctoral fellowships and PhD scholarships in English, of 14 "Old Master" 17th Century Dutch paintings, and of a very generous fund for the care and conservation of these works and others in the University's art collection.

A highly successful legal professional, art collector and philanthropist, Kenneth Reed's involvement with the University represents a significant vote of confidence in its work and reputation. Generations of future students of English will benefit from his support, while students of art history, visual culture and museum studies will experience the positive impact of his gifts for University collections for years to come.

Chancellor, I present Kenneth Reed and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.