

## **LAURENCE KEITH CRAWFORD**

### **Citation for the conferral of a Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*)**

Vice-Chancellor, I present Mr Laurence Keith Crawford for admission to the degree of Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*).

Mr Crawford has worked in Indigenous education since 1970 as an Aboriginal Education Assistant, primary and tertiary teacher. He has over 40 years of teaching and research experience in the field of Aboriginal Education, where he made an outstanding contribution by developing and implementing Aboriginal studies programs that enhanced the student's learning about Indigenous cultures.

In the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Mr Crawford was awarded the New South Wales Director General of Education Award for his commitment and considerable contribution to public education.

Mr Crawford was the first Aboriginal Education Assistant to be appointed to a high school in New South Wales. During this time, the Aboriginal Education Assistant program was in its infancy and it was Mr Crawford's commitment and dedication in working with the New South Wales Education system that conditions for the program were greatly improved.

Mr Crawford attended one of the University's antecedent institutions, Mitchell College and attained a Diploma of Education. His first appointment was to a local public school where he became the first qualified Aboriginal infant's teacher west of the Blue Mountains. Mr Crawford went on to complete a Bachelor of Education degree, and a Master of Aboriginal Education Studies.

Mr Crawford commenced his postgraduate career as the Koori Teaching Fellow in the School of Teacher Education at the University's campus in Bathurst, a position he held for over 20 years. Over this period he served as a lecturer making a substantial contribution to Indigenous education and culture through his innovative curriculum development designed to challenge and motivate students. Mr Crawford was an outstanding member of the School of Teacher Education contributing and achieving across all areas of academic, administration and research.

Mr Crawford established and maintained links between Charles Sturt University and Indigenous communities across the University's footprint. The teaching of Indigenous issues from a unique and informed perspective engaged students as they gained a deeper understanding of Indigenous Australia.

A founding member of the committee that established the Aboriginal Enclave Centre at Mitchell College, Mr Crawford conducted the very first Aboriginal student orientation program. Aided by Mr Crawford's guidance and involvement, the Enclave Centre would later expand into the Indigenous Education Unit of Charles Sturt University, with an Indigenous Student Centre established on each of the main campuses under the supervision of the Education Unit. He also played a vital role in the negotiation with local Indigenous communities at Dubbo and Port Macquarie, in the establishment of Charles Sturt University within these communities.

Mr Crawford was the inaugural Chairperson of the Bathurst Health Council and a Director of the Mid-Western Area Health Service. It was during this time that Aboriginal Health became a significant major social justice target, through the forging of strong links with Aboriginal communities across the Mid-Western Area Health Service footprint.

Mr Crawford and his wife Patricia are Aboriginal leaders in the local community and are responsible for establishing the Towri Multifunctional Aboriginal Children's Services Child Centre in Bathurst.

Mr Crawford's contribution to the local community was recognised last year during Bathurst's bi-centenary, when he was named one of Bathurst's 200 living legends. His sharp intellect is accompanied by a wonderfully gentle and unassuming nature and keen sense of humour. A man with a deep love for his country, its people, and its countryside.

Vice-Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Mr Laurence Keith Crawford – a devoted and valued friend to Charles Sturt University in Mr Laurence Keith Crawford – for admission to the degree of Doctor of Education (*honoris causa*).

**Dated this Twelfth Day of December Two Thousand and Sixteen**