

MR STAN GRANT AM

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

Chancellor, it is a privilege to present to you and to this gathering, for the award of Doctor of Letters (*honoris causa*), Mr Stan Grant AM.

The University Council has resolved to confer this award on Mr Stan Grant in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Charles Sturt University's (CSU's) regions, especially to Indigenous communities.

Mr Stan Grant, AM is a Wiradjuri man who was born and grew up in the Western Riverina. As a child he spent much time in the company of his grandfather, a Wiradjuri speaker, and was thus one of only a few people in his generation to have substantial exposure to the language as a living language.

Mr Grant helped constitute the Wiradjuri Council of Elders in the 1980s and was a leader in the work of strengthening the Wiradjuri community, including through self governance and reclaiming heritage and identity.

In the mid-eighties the Wiradjuri Council of Elders came in possession of dictionaries and other Wiradjuri language material from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Mr Grant was asked by the Elders to lead a language recovery program.

Under Mr Grant's leadership, the language recovery program has been sustained over three decades and has proven an outstanding success. It is viewed as a model for language recovery for other Indigenous communities.

With Dr John Rudder, Mr Grant has prepared and published two editions of a Wiradjuri-English/English-Wiradjuri Dictionary; a Wiradjuri Grammar book; textbooks and primers, including a range for children; stories; recordings; and a songbook.

Mr Grant has worked with TAFE to establish successful programs in Wiradjuri language to Certificate III level and has overseen the introduction of Wiradjuri language classes in many regional schools. More recently, Mr Grant has assisted CSU to introduce Wiradjuri language programs at the University.

Mr Grant's work has not only assisted his community to recover its heritage, it has also created a growing community of Wiradjuri language speakers.

Mr Grant's contribution to Australian society was recognised by the award of membership of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2009.

Each language is a unique expression and repository of human experience. The loss of any language is a tragedy. To recover a language is not simply a major feat of intellectual, cultural and community leadership but an enduring contribution to humanity.

Chancellor, I now present Mr Stan Grant AM, an outstanding leader and teacher, whose dedication to Indigenous education will ensure the preservation of the Wiradjuri language and culture for many future generations.

Dated this Sixteenth Day of December Two Thousand and Thirteen