

## **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN HERBERT OVERTON AM**

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

Vice-Chancellor, it is a privilege to present to you and to this gathering, for the award of Doctor of Health Studies (*honoris causa*), Associate Professor John Overton AM.

The University Council has resolved to confer this award on Associate Professor Overton for significant service to paramedic education and to medicine, through clinical, administration and advisory roles.

Associate Professor John Herbert Overton AM was born in Sydney in 1937. He received his secondary school education at North Sydney Boys High School and graduated from the University of Sydney Medical School in 1962. He commenced residency at The Royal North Shore Hospital in 1962 where he defined his future directions in anaesthesia and critical care. He then worked at Royal Hampshire County Hospital (UK) in 1965 to qualify in anaesthesia.

Whilst in the UK, he was engaged in the establishment and teaching of the first ambulance treating schools in Hampshire. He then returned to Australia in 1967 to commence a 33 year association with The Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children in Camperdown between 1968 and 2001. He served as the National Heart Research Fellow and Associate Director of Intensive Care, Director of Anaesthesia and finally Director of Clinical Services and Deputy Executive Director. He was appointed Associate Professor of Anaesthesia at the University of Sydney in 1991.

From 1968 he has taught continuously for the NSW Ambulance Service, establishing schools of training and curriculum as well as protocols with particular reference to paramedic training and clinical governance, holding senior positions in the Governance Committee as Deputy Chairman and on the NSW Ambulance Council. He established the paediatric curriculum for the paramedic tuition, for which he has been recognised in the Australia Day Honours as a Member of the Order of Australia, having been awarded an OAM for his services to The Children's Hospital and Medicine.

Associate Professor Overton's vision to establish and sustain academic training provided invaluable support for the creation of formal academic paramedic studies at Charles Sturt University (CSU).

Over 45 years of honorary service he has been created an Honorary Paramedic by NSW Ambulance, and the Institute of Ambulance Officers have instigated the John Overton Award for Research in Pre-Hospital Care to acknowledge his years of dedicated service to paramedic studies. He was one of the co-founders of the paramedic ambulance Service of NSW IN 1976. A John Overton prize for High Performance has also been awarded to the best performing paramedic student in PHC303, Evidenced Based Practice at CSU. He has been the exemplar mentor in the establishment of learning and advancing the highest standard of paramedic management, and the models of paramedic studies and mentoring have been replicated in other states in Australia and beyond our national borders.

Colonel Overton RAAMC has also been recognised with a Chief of Army's Commendation for his mentoring and education of medical officers and combat medics in the provision of acute care of the battlefield casualty. He is also responsible for the training of hundreds of senior Anaesthesia Consultants who hold him in the highest regard, particularly for his paediatric anaesthesia and critical care.

His 45 years of continuous service exemplifies the pillars of academic training in that he has raised, trained and sustained our community.

Associate Professor Overton has lectured nationally and internationally on critical care and is noted for his travelling and teaching in rural and remote communities to advance skills in paramedic training.

Associate Professor Overton's achievements and vision, as well as his sustained commitment, have produced a cornerstone in the advancement of paramedic education which has seen its significant growth both academically at Charles Sturt University and also in continuing education to the benefit of the greater community.

Chancellor, I present to you John Herbert Overton, a man on whom Charles Sturt University is proud to confer the award Doctor of Health Studies (*honoris causa*).

**Dated this Seventeenth Day of December Two Thousand and Fourteen**