

## 2013 JULY GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Friday, 19 July 2013 – 6pm  
UQ Centre, Union Road, St Lucia

Faculty of Health Sciences

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### CITATION

**Award of Doctor of Medicine *honoris causa***

**Professor Fiona Stanley AC**

Chancellor,

Professor Fiona Stanley is a well-known and widely admired medical researcher, epidemiologist and public health campaigner. Her work has improved the health of many people and communities.

Professor Stanley is founding director and patron of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, and Distinguished Research Professor in the School of Paediatrics and Child Health at The University of Western Australia.

She is Vice-Chancellor's Professorial Fellow at The University of Melbourne and director of the Festival of Ideas.

In 1990 Professor Stanley founded the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth, now one of Australia's largest and most successful medical research institutes, with more than 500 staff and students. The multi-disciplinary facility investigates the causes and prevention of childhood diseases and disabilities, supported by funding from an annual telethon, federal and state governments, research foundations, grants and commercial contracts.

Professor Stanley chaired the Australian Research Alliance for Children in the decade to 2012. The group was established largely at her instigation, to help researchers, policymakers and practitioners collaborate on the wellbeing of young Australians.

In Professor Stanley's earliest roles as a pediatrician in Perth hospitals, she treated Indigenous children with serious but preventable conditions. Immediately she wanted to understand more about the health and environmental conditions in Indigenous communities

and she led colleagues on tours visiting almost every indigenous community in Western Australia.

These experiences led to Professor Stanley's lifelong advocacy for preventative health. In her 2003 Kenneth Myer Lecture at the National Library of Australia she spoke of "modernity's paradox" in which despite society's increasing wealth, social differences had become more pronounced and children and youth were suffering from higher rates of asthma, obesity, diabetes, child abuse, binge-drinking, drug abuse and mental health problems. She championed cross-disciplinary work and said the challenge was "to intervene earlier in the causal cycles".

As an indication of the esteem in which Professor Stanley is held, the West Australian government's largest-ever building project is the \$2 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital. It is due to open next year and is funded by the state and federal governments.

Professor Stanley has honorary doctorates in medicine from the universities of Sydney and Melbourne, honorary doctorates in science from the Edith Cowan University and Murdoch University, an honorary doctorate of laws from the University of Melbourne, and she is honorary doctor of the university at the Queensland University of Technology.

Professor Stanley has written more than 300 publications and books. She sits on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation board and has served on the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council. She was 2003 Australian of the Year, and in 2006 became UNICEF's Australian Ambassador for Early Childhood Development.

Chancellor, I present **Professor Fiona Juliet Stanley**, Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, Master of Science, Doctor of Medicine, for the award of Doctor of Medicine *honoris causa*, bestowed by the Senate of The University of Queensland.