



## THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

*Mr Chancellor,*

The position of Chief Scientist in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has so far had only one occupant. Professor Ralph Slatyer, one of Australia's most distinguished scientists, was appointed to that position in 1989 following a career in universities and in government policy-making councils. He has played a major role in scientific research, in the development of science and technology policy, and in environmental policy.

As Chief Scientist he established the Prime Minister's Science Council, which has already become the major national forum for the consideration of science and technology issues. He also played a key role in the creation of the Cooperative Research Centres Program, which is concerned with strengthening research collaboration and increasing the effectiveness of technology transfer among some fifty major centres in Australia.

Beginning his career in the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, he was appointed in 1967 as Foundation Professor of Environmental Biology at the Australian National University and became Director of the Research School of Biological Sciences in 1984. He has also held fellowships at Duke University and the University of California Santa Barbara. His many awards include the Edgeworth David Medal (1960) and the Medal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science (1991).

He holds the rare distinction of having been elected not only to membership of the Australian Academy of Science but also to membership of the Royal Society of London and the United States National Academy of Sciences.

Among many national and international appointments Professor Slatyer has been Chairman of the Australian National Commission for UNESCO; Chairman of the Intergovernmental Program on Man and the Biosphere; Chairman of the World Heritage Committee; Chairman of the Australian Biological Resources Study; President of the International Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment; and Chairman of the Australian Science and Technology Council. He has also served as Australian Ambassador to the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

*Mr Chancellor*

For his distinguished service to higher education, science, technology, and the environment both in Australia and internationally I present to you Professor Ralph Owen Slatyer, Officer of the Order of Australia, Doctor of Science in Agriculture of the University of Western Australia, Honorary Doctor of Science of the University of Western Australia and of Duke University, Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science, Fellow of the Royal Society, for the conferral of the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, to which he has been admitted by the Senate of the University.