

# Citation for the awarding of an Honorary Degree to Professor Allan Carmichael

## Federation Concert Hall, Hobart, 14 December 2011

Professor Allan Carmichael arrived in Tasmania in 1992 to take up appointments as Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, State Advisor in Child Health Services in the Department of Health and Human Services, and Senior Consultant in the Department of Paediatrics at the Royal Hobart Hospital. Over the subsequent two decades he has made outstanding contributions as an academic, clinician, policy maker and academic leader.

In 1997, Professor Carmichael was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Health Science and Head of the School of Medicine. In the latter role, he ensured that the School was placed on a sound academic and administrative basis. He led the development of the new five-year MBBS degree, and in thirteen years as Dean, provided outstanding academic leadership and administrative management that not only ensured the Faculty operated on a sound financial basis, but grew very substantially in size and diversity.

He oversaw the establishment of the University Department of Rural Health in Launceston, and the Rural Clinical School in Burnie, the massive expansion of the School of Nursing, now described as a powerhouse for Nursing within Australia, and the creation of Paramedic programs and postgraduate programs in Pharmaceutical Science and Clinical Pharmacy. Allan also succeeded in working closely with the Menzies Research Institute to deliver an impressive research output in the health arena on behalf of the University.

In short, in his tenure as Dean, Professor Carmichael transformed the Faculty, making it in many ways the most successful and vibrant faculty in the University. As well, he has long played important roles in the life and leadership of the University beyond the Faculty, as a member of the Senior Management Team.

Professor Carmichael has continued to work as a clinician and is to be praised for continuing to deliver a high-quality clinical service in the area of paediatrics. He has an outstanding reputation not only for his professional skills, but also for his compassion and humanity. He is well loved by his fellow clinicians as well as by his academic colleagues.

He has likewise played an important role in the Tasmanian health system, for example, as a founding member and ongoing leader in Partners in Health, the formal structure that facilitates the relationship between the Faculty and Department of Health and Human Services.

Professor Carmichael has also made important contributions beyond Tasmania. Between 2007 and 2009 he was Chair of the Medical Deans of Australia and New Zealand, in which role he made a substantial contribution

to the development, enhancement and implementation of Commonwealth government health policy. For a decade he was an Academic Council Member of the International Medical University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and has been an active member of a range of national and international bodies with a focus on child health, taking leadership roles in a number of them.

Professor Carmichael has made a fine contribution over a lengthy period to the development and life of the University, to health provision in Tasmania and to health policy and practice in the State and beyond.

His quiet and dignified manner, both in the community and towards his colleagues, is a hallmark of the man. His personal qualities, coupled with his outstanding professional and administrative abilities and his thoughtfulness and respect of the opinion of others, have marked him as a trusted and respected colleague, and indeed, a true leader.

In 2007, Professor Carmichael received the Medal of the Order of Australia 'for service to medicine and as an educator and administrator through a range of government and professional organisations, particularly in the field of paediatrics'. It is now entirely appropriate that the University of Tasmania should acknowledge his achievements.