

## **PETER ERNE BAUME**

### *CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE*

Pro-Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, Professor Peter Erne Baume.

Peter Baume has had a very distinguished career, in fact, three careers. Graduating in 1959 with Bachelor of Medicine Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Sydney, he studied gastroenterology in the United Kingdom and the United States of America before completing a doctorate in medicine at the University of Sydney in 1969. He was in private practice as a gastroentologist and physician until 1974, and also held clinical academic posts at the University of Sydney.

His career as a leading consultant physician changed direction when he was elected as a Senator in May 1974. In the ensuing seventeen years in parliament, he served variously as Government Deputy Whip, Government Whip, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Minister assisting the Minister for National Development and Energy, Minister for Education, Minister for Health, Shadow Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, Shadow Minister for Education and the Status of Women and Shadow Minister for Community Services and the Status of Women. In his political career, his philosophical small 'l' liberal principles on issues such as his support for equal employment opportunities for women were sometimes at odds with the public position of his party.

In 1991, Peter Baume left the Australian Senate to become Professor of Community Medicine at the University of New South Wales, a position he held until 2000. During this time, he pursued his research interests in euthanasia, drug policy and evaluation. Since 2000, Professor Baume has been an honorary research associate with the Social Policy Research Centre at the University of New South Wales.

Peter Baume has made significant contributions to many professional, government and community bodies including as Commissioner of the Australian Law Reform Commission, Deputy Chair of the Australian National Council on AIDS and Foundation Chair of the Australian Sports Drug Agency. He has been outspoken on a number of social justice issues, including reconciliation, and is a Patron of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society of New South Wales and "A Just Australia", a campaign for just refugee programs. A Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Australasian Faculty of Public Health Medicine and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1992.

Peter Baume has had a long association with The Australian National University. First appointed to the Council of the University by the Commonwealth Government in 1986, he became the ninth Chancellor of the University on 1 December 1994. The educational environment has undergone significant changes over the last ten years and the Council has faced many challenges. The collegiate functioning of Council has been due in no small part to Professor Baume and the achievements of the University are a testament to the productive relationship which exists between Council and the University community. He has brought to the role of Chancellor the qualities which have typified a career dedicated to community service – integrity, fair-mindedness and outstanding commitment.

This is another way of saying that Peter Baume has been an outstanding Chancellor for the ANU, and of the ANU. Without such balance and qualities in its Chancellor, the ANU would not hold the elevated position that it does in the world of learning. And for that, the staff, students and graduates of the ANU, and the rest of Australia, should long be grateful to Peter Baume. I know that I am.

Pro-Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present to you Peter Erne Baume, that you may confer on him the degree of Doctor of the University, *honoris causa*, on the grounds of his distinguished creative contributions to the service of society and for outstanding service to education in general and to this University in particular.

Professor Ian Chubb AO  
Vice-Chancellor  
The Australian National University  
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