

ELIZABETH ANNE REID

CITATION FOR AN HONORARY DEGREE

Mr Chancellor, it is my privilege to present to you for a degree of the University, *honoris causa*, Elizabeth Anne Reid.

Elizabeth Reid has made outstanding creative contributions in the service of Australian and global society as a development practitioner, educator and scholar. Throughout the course of her life and career, she has worked passionately for social justice, especially in the fields of women and the HIV epidemic.

She is a child of Canberra. Daughter of Jean and the late Jim Reid, she was nurtured in a large family which combined Catholic faith with a concern for equity and justice and valued the joys of education as a life-long vocation. Elizabeth was awarded a first class honours degree in Philosophy from the ANU in 1965. She then went to study at Oxford where she was awarded the prestigious B. Phil in 1970 and where her first child Katherine Weir was born. When she returned to Australia, she was briefly a Tutor in Philosophy at the ANU before being selected as the first Advisor on Women's Affairs to the Australian Prime Minister, the Hon. E. G. Whitlam, in 1973. In that capacity, she helped resource community initiatives such as women's health centres, refuges, rape crisis centres and child care programs, and developed new government policies in equal opportunity in education, employment and housing. In 1975 she led the Australian delegation to the World International Women's Year Conference in Mexico and gave a stirring speech, much celebrated at the time and long remembered.

She was founding Director of the United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Women and Development from 1977 to 1979. From 1981 to 1984 she worked for USAID and other agencies in Zaire, Burundi, Rwanda, Thailand, the Pacific and Australia. In this period her second child, John Pruitt Reid, was born. From 1989 to 1997, she worked for the United Nations Development Programme New York as Programme Director for Women in Development and then from 1992 was Founding Director of the HIV and Development Programme. From 1998 to 2000 she was Resident Co-ordinator of the UN and Resident Representative of UNDP in Papua New Guinea. Since 2000, she has focused on developing innovative and practical policy and community responses to the burgeoning HIV epidemic in Papua New Guinea, our close neighbour. She is again based in Canberra and affiliated with the Gender Relations Centre, Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies in the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific but continues to travel widely in the Pacific, Asia and Africa, as part of her continuing commitment to making a difference in national and global programs focused on HIV and gender and development.

Throughout her life, she has moved consummately between the practice of development and scholarly reflection on it. She has published several books, hundreds of articles and reports, and has addressed many international conferences as invited keynote speaker. In 1996 she was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences in recognition of her influential research and publications. In 2001 she was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for her outstanding contributions to international relations and to policy and practice nationally and internationally in relation to women and the HIV epidemic.

Elizabeth is thus a very distinguished alumnus of the ANU and it is particularly appropriate that her first alma mater should honour her in this way.

Mr Chancellor, it is with great pleasure that I present Elizabeth Anne Reid, that you may confer on her the degree of Doctor of Letters, *honoris causa*, on the ground of her distinguished creative contributions in the service of society, particularly in the fields of women, the HIV epidemic and social justice.

Professor Ian Chubb AC
Vice-Chancellor
Australian National University
14 December 2006