

A portrait of Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC, an elderly woman with short grey hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a black academic cap with a gold tassel and a blue academic gown with red and yellow sashes. She is holding the brim of her cap with her right hand. The background is a solid blue color.

Celebrating a champion of education

**EMERITUS PROFESSOR
DENISE BRADLEY AC**

1942 – 2020



University of
South Australia



"Our university will always seek to be perceived as youthful in so far as youth is synonymous with being modern, progressive, flexible and forward thinking. If our students, staff and friends continue to remark that we seem youthful and fresh, I will consider that we have met the first challenge of a university in the new century. The days of a successful university must all be first days."

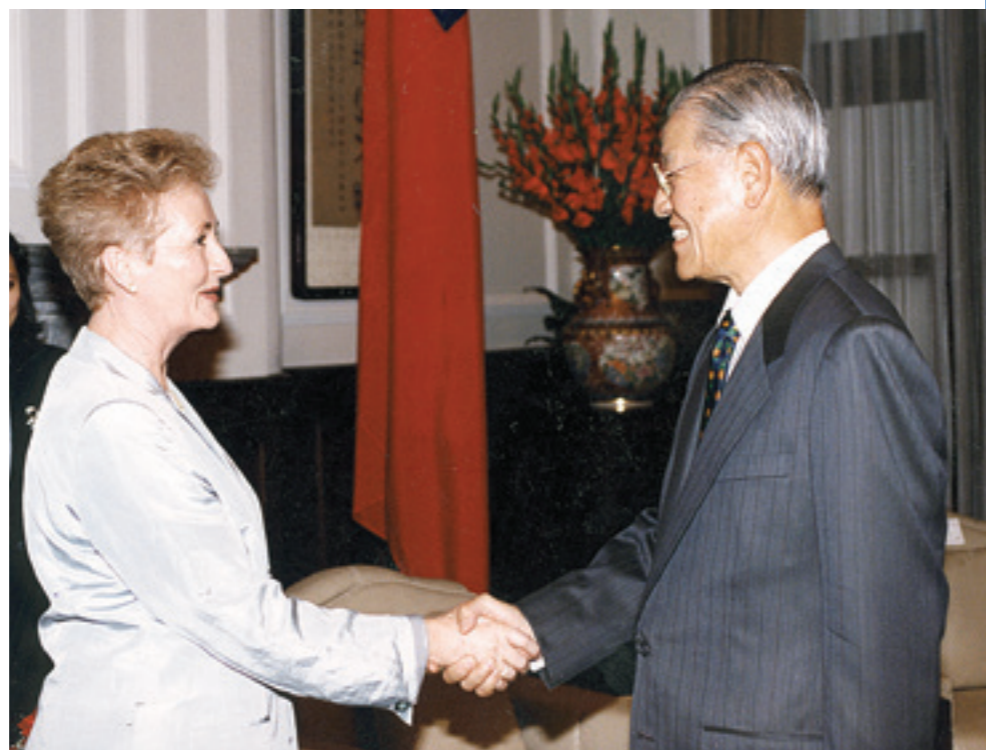
**Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC
10th Anniversary Friends Dinner (2001)**

Denise Bradley



"I have worked in the field of education all my adult life. My interest and commitment are driven by my strong view that access to education transforms lives...any mature democracy should be expected to provide its citizens with genuine opportunities to effect change in their lives through education."

**Emeritus Professor
Denise Bradley AC**



She was a formidable educator and ensured that UniSA offered education where excellence was assured and access was universal. As Vice Chancellor, she played a vital role in guiding the institution's formative years pursuing a strategy that enabled the University to be the highly regarded institution it is today.

It was Denise who set the tone for what UniSA was to be: a place unshackled by tradition, where optimism, industry connectivity and inclusion were foundational values and where more Australians, from more diverse backgrounds, would start to build their careers.

She had one of the best understandings of higher education in Australia and dedicated her career to making changes that would see more women, more Aboriginal people and more people from lower socio-economic backgrounds have the transformational opportunity of a good education.

In 2008, the *Bradley Review of Higher Education* was established to address the question of whether this critical sector of education was structured, organised and financed to position Australia to compete effectively in the new globalised economy.

Although our history stretches back to 1856, it was the combination of our predecessor institutions, the South Australian College of Advanced Education and the South Australian Institute of Technology, that first formed the University of South Australia and started us on the road to success.

The late and much lamented Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC, as Principal of the College of Advanced Education, was instrumental in guiding that merger.

She was a key member of an extraordinary group of pioneers who managed to pull together two large and vastly different organisations, each with different aims and cultures and each spread over a variety of campuses.

They made it work.

The subsequent introduction of the demand-driven system which ended in 2017, left a lasting legacy in the number of graduates who would not otherwise have degrees. It changed the higher education sector.

A brilliant mind, Denise also had a conviction not just about higher education but research in South Australia. She believed that we could recreate the State as a place where excellent research, quality teaching and an engaged international outlook would flourish.

So, we take enormous pride in re-dedicating our Cancer Research Institute Building, a flagship research, teaching and public engagement facility for the University, as the Bradley Building. It is a modern symbol of her legacy and contribution to our university. It not only honours her enduring contribution, but it will remind future generations that it is people like Denise that create change, shape fairer societies and light the way.

**Professor David Lloyd
President and Vice Chancellor**





"I grew up at a time in Australia where, as the number of girls educated till the end of schooling and progressing to university grew, nevertheless, the expectations they, their families and their male contemporaries had were that these young women would work for a few years and then retreat to the home to bring up children. Well, it didn't turn out that way!"

Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC



A remarkable life

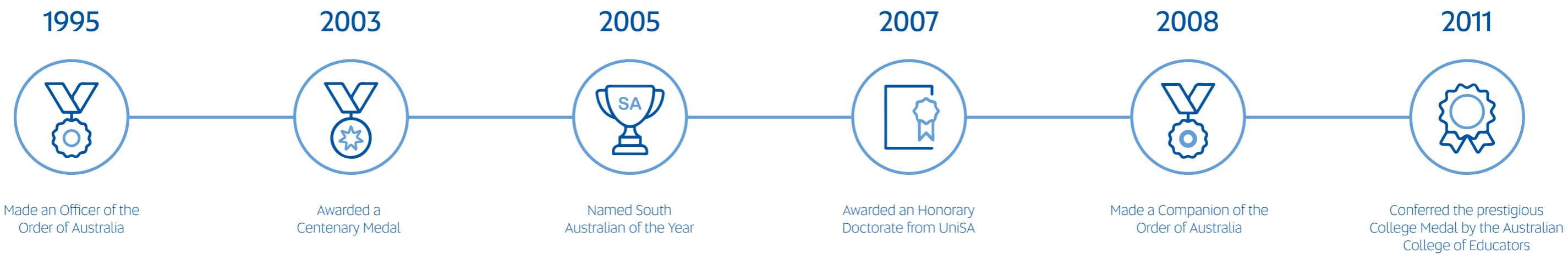
Emeritus Professor Bradley's contribution to the University of South Australia, to higher education more broadly, and to aspiring female leaders around the country, is immeasurable. Her achievements so significant, that she continues to be one of the most celebrated pioneers in Australia's education sector.

Denise began her secondary teaching career in 1962. Her first tertiary education appointment came in 1975 as a lecturer at the South Australian College of Advanced Education (SACAE). A long history followed, working in a variety of roles across education and different levels of government.

It was in 1990 that Denise became the Principal of SACAE and played a pivotal role in the formation of UniSA. In 1991, she was named as the University's Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning) and appointed as Professor. From here, Denise took the helm as Vice Chancellor and President of the University in 1996 – a position she served for a decade.

In her role as Vice Chancellor, Denise was formidable. She spearheaded conversations around global and online learning, higher education funding and program development, and always ensured equity and access to tertiary learning was at the forefront of discussions.





"There was no doubt who was the boss, and such is her talent and integrity that the University of South Australia and the wider community are better for it."

The Hon Bob Hawke AC (2001)



"Here's a university that looks over its shoulder at centuries of tradition while, at the same time, having a youthful spirit. And if I feel proud of the place, you can imagine how the departing VC feels. What an achievement! At this stage, let me doff my funny hat in her direction."

Dr Phillip Adams AO, author and social commentator (2001)



"I have always been greatly impressed by her dynamism, vision and determined pursuit of excellence."

Mike Rann AC, former Premier of South Australia (2001)

"As Vice Chancellor, she has made a significant contribution to the state and nation by building a strong, innovative and entrepreneurial university."

David Klingberg AM, former Chancellor of UniSA (2001)

Welcome to the Bradley Building

In honour of Denise, the Bradley Building stands as a modern symbol of her legacy and contribution to our university.

Opened in 2018, this impressive building is home to UniSA Clinical & Health Sciences, the Centre for Cancer Biology, the Innovation & Collaboration Centre (ICC) and MOD. – our futuristic museum of discovery.

In our 30th year as the University of South Australia, we reflect on the many achievements of the institution. We also acknowledge that the legacy of Denise's vision and leadership continues to drive our university forward. We are a place for unstoppable people – and always have been.

The Bradley Building has been honoured with a Kaurna name, Purrana Wardli, which means Healthy Place.





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Acknowledgement of Country

UniSA respects the Kaurna, Boandik and Bangarla peoples spiritual relationship with their country.

Artist: *Ngupulya Purnani*

Find out more about the University's commitment to reconciliation at unisa.edu.au/RAP