**Officiator: Dr Ian Gould AM**

**Award recipient: Dr Anne Fairhurst Summers AO, PhD**

**Award being conferred: Honorary Doctor of the University of South Australia (DUniv)**

**Citation delivered by: Professor Pal Ahluwalia (BA (Adv), MA, PhD FASSA) Pro Vice Chancellor Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences**

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**Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Doctorate Degree to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to public service or a field of academic endeavour. It is my pleasure to present to you Dr Anne Summers AO for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.**

Dr Anne Summers is one of Australia’s most accomplished women, a best-selling author, journalist, politcal activist and thought leader with a long career in politics, the media, business and the non government sector in Australia, Europe and the United States.

She is author of several books, including the classic *Damned Whores and God’s Police*, first published in 1975; *Ducks on the Pond*, her autobiography in 1999; *The End of Equality*, (2003); *On Luck* (2008); and *The Lost Mother* (2009). Her most recent book *The Misogyny Factor* was published in June 2013. She writes on politics and social issues regularly for a number of Australian newspapers, including the *Sydney Morning Herald*. She is the editor and publisher of the digital magazine Anne Summers Reports and she hosts Anne Summers Conversations, public events where she engages in discussion with well-known people. Her first such conversation was with former Prime Minister Julia Gillard in late 2013.

Born in Deniliquin in NSW, Dr Summers moved with her family to Adelaide while still a small child. She attended Adelaide University and became one of a group of five women to form the Women’s Liberation Movement in Australia. Moving to Sydney in 1970 Dr Summers and other Women’s Liberation Movement members created the Elsie Women’s Refuge to provide shelter to women and children who were victims of domestic violence.

Dr Summers received a postgraduate scholarship to do a PhD which she used to write the book, *Damned Whores and God’s Police* which looked at the history of women in Australia. In conversation with fellow journalist George Negus on the ABC, Dr Summers explained that, while the book was meant to be about women and mateship its title summed up how she saw the position of women in society at that time.

The book changed the way women were perceived in this country. A bestseller, it was updated in 1994 and again in 2002 and stayed continuously in print until 2008 – an incredible 33 years.

The book led her to being awarded a PhD and attracted the interest of journalist Max Suich then the editor of the *National Times*. She was, she says, given one of the best assignments in journalism, which was to do a big investigation into NSW prisons for which she won a Walkley Award. The series led to a royal commission.

In 1983 she joined the Hawke government’s Prime Minister’s Department running the Office for the Status of Women and helped develop policies that put into practice all the things she had fought for at an activist level.

In 1987 in New York she was editor-in-chief of Ms. – America’s landmark feminist magazine – and the following year, with business partner Sandra Yates, bought *Ms*. and *Sassy* magazines in the second only women-led management buyout in US corporate history.

In 1989 she was made an Officer in the Order of Australia for her services to journalism and to women. She became an advisor on women’s issues to Prime Minister Paul Keating prior to the 1993 Federal election and was then appointed editor of the *Good Weekend* magazine in *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age*.

Dr Summers also took on the role of Chair of the Board of Greenpeace International from 2000-2006 and was Deputy President of Sydney’s Powerhouse Museum from 1999-2008.

Dr Summers was a leader of the generation and the movement that changed Australia for women. Her involvement in the women’s movement has earned her community respect and has been honoured with Honorary Doctorates from both Flinders University (1994) and the University of New South Wales (2000). In 2011, along with three other women, Anne was honoured as an Australian Legend with her image placed on a postage stamp.

**Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia, I am pleased to present Dr Anne Summers AO, for the honorary degree of Doctor of the University, in recognition of her distinguished service to the community.**