

Dr Lewis 'Yarlupurka' O'Brien AO

Honorary Doctorate citation, 2024

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University

His contributions to South Australian society are significant, serving on committees including the Aboriginal Advancement League; Kurna Heritage Committee; the State Council of Aboriginal Elders; various Curriculum Committees.

Over the years, Uncle Lewis has rightly been recognised for the outstanding contribution he has made as a Kurna Elder, leader of reconciliation and custodian of Kurna Culture. He was named Aboriginal Elder of the Year in 1977, awarded the Centenary Medal for service to the Aboriginal people of South Australia in 2001, and South Australian Local Hero in 2003. In 2009 he received the Citizen of Humanity Award from the National Committee of Human Rights, and the Australian Council for Educational Leaders presented him with their Leadership Award in 2018. He holds an Honorary Doctorate from Flinders University and an Honorary Fellowship of the University of South Australia.