

Freda Briggs Citation

Freda Briggs, through her roles as educator, author, scholar and ambassador has ceaselessly and passionately worked towards her vision to provide a safer and more caring world for children.

She is the recipient of the Inaugural Australian Humanitarian Award, the ANZAC Fellowship Award, the Jean Denton Memorial Fellowship and the Creswick Fellowship Award for her work with disadvantaged children.

Freda still travels the country voluntarily to provide advice on issues relating to the educational needs of veterans' children. She also travels extensively throughout Asia and the Pacific, at her own expense, consulting to humanitarian aid organisations.

She spent nine years as a consultant to 'Save the Children' in a voluntary capacity to ensure that Australian money was wisely spent and services met community needs. Additionally, she advises the New Zealand Police and Ministry of Education, and the Government of Fiji, on child protection issues.

In 1998 she was the only civilian recipient of a New Zealand Police Award, in gratitude for a decade of consultation and research.

Freda was made Senior Australian of the Year 2000-2001 and on Australia Day 2001, became one of the Prime Minister's 30 national ambassadors for the recognition of women, as the spokesperson for South Australia.

She has also been the recipient of the two UniSA Chancellor Awards for Community Service, in 2000 and 2001.

Freda is the author of 13 books and since the age of 60, has published more than a book a year and continues to publish extensively in international journals.

She is an outstanding scholar, has spent a significant part of her working life contributing to the University, and is a tireless advocate for children.

Chancellor, I have great pleasure in presenting Freda Briggs to you for the title of Professor Emeritus

Occasional Address Introduction - Chancellor

Today's Occasional Address will be delivered by Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs.

Born in England in the 1930's, her childhood was lost to the years of war, impoverishment and rationing. Her first job as a filing clerk paid \$3 for a 48 hr week.

Realising that filing was not her forte, she was lured by the prospect of adventure with the London Metropolitan Police where she became a specialist working in the child protection field.

Inspired by this work, Freda set her sights higher and became one of the first mature age students to be accepted at Warwick University where she started teacher training.

Her experiences working with the Police Force in the child protection field underscored the importance of training teachers to identify children who were being abused and neglected. When she became a lecturer, she introduced students to issues relating to child protection.

In 1975 Freda and her family moved to Australia so she could take up the position of Director of Early Childhood studies at the State College of Victoria, a pioneering position and the first course of its kind in Australia.

In 1980 Freda was appointed foundation Dean of the De Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies, then Associate Professor of Childhood Development at the University of South Australia in 1991, Professor in 1994, a position she continues to hold.

I believe there are few people better qualified to inform, motivate and inspire our Education, Arts and Social Science graduands as they embark upon their professional careers.

And so, it is my great pleasure to invite Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs to deliver today's Occasional Address.