**Citation – Boe Rambaldini**

Thursday, 8 December 2022

Pro-Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Boe Rambaldini for admission as an Honorary Fellow of the University.

Boe is a proud Bundajalung man who tirelessly advocates for the improved health and wellbeing outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Through education, community engagement and research, he has made incredible contributions to not just the University of Sydney but throughout many communities in Australia.

Boe’s journey began on the North Coast of NSW, where he was born. As a young man he struggled to engage and connect with his Indigenous identity, unable to speak the language nor practice the customs and ceremonies of his people. During his schooling, Boe found he was not presented the same opportunities as his non-Indigenous peers. Following the 1967 Referendum, Boe, like other Indigenous Australian’s, became citizens of Australia. This marked a new beginning for Boe, the start of a journey that would impact the lives of many young Indigenous Australians and enact governmental changes for improvement in Aboriginal healthcare.

Boe has worked in a variety of roles across local, state and federal governments. One of these roles placed him within the team that created the landmark paper ‘Submission to Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Common Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Children from their Families’ in 1988.

In 2011, Boe became the Aboriginal Oral Health Manager at the NSW Centre for Oral Health. In this role he assisted with the establishment of new dental clinics and the expansion of services. Boe was instrumental in forming the NSW Aboriginal Oral Health Plan 2014-2020, which aimed to create partnerships within communities based on mutual respect and trust. This also launched the careers of many Aboriginal peoples through the Aboriginal Dental Assistant Trainee program.

After Boe’s appointment as director of the Poche Centre for Indigenous Health, at the University of Sydney, he continued to make positive impacts on the community. The Poche Centre provides health services, research and policy engagement. It aims to make tangible improvements to the health of Aboriginal people, closing the gap in life expectancy, seeking solutions to complex issues, and achieving health equity for those facing complex health problems. In collaboration with communities, Boe developed the ‘Building strong and healthy communities’ strategy which built on previous programs that had a major positive impact on children in regional and remote schools. This strategy encouraged healthy decision making and included the installation of clean water dispensers and refrigerated water.

Boe was recognised in the 2020 Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence for Outstanding Contribution to the University community. He has co-authored over 22 papers in the last 5 years and been Chief Investigator on four Category 1 grants.

Throughout his long career, Boe’s unwavering resolve has left behind a legacy of justice, truth-telling and empathy. He has already made a lasting impact on Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander health, wellbeing and education, and will continue to work selflessly so others may succeed and thrive.

Pro-Chancellor, it is a great pleasure to present Boe Rambaldini to be admitted as an Honorary Fellow of the University of Sydney.