Citation

Chancellor, I have the honour to present Dorothy Jane Hoddinott for the conferring of the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.

Dorothy Hoddinott has made a significant contribution to Australian education at both State and National levels. She is a graduate of the University of Sydney - BA, Dip Ed, MA and a Fellow of the Australian Council for Educational Leadership.

While an undergraduate she was a Director of the then Women's Union, debated for the Women's Union, and was a contributing cartoonist to Honi Soit. As a member of the International Club, she was part of the original committee which worked to establish International House. When she returned to Australia after living in Milan for 8 years, and undertook her Master's degree, she played A grade Squash for the University. She was a founding Director of the University of Sydney Union Foundation and served on its Board from 1996 until 2005.

Dorothy Hoddinott is the Principal of Holroyd High School.

Since 1976 she has taught at Punchbowl Boys High School, Leichhardt High School, Bankstown Boys' High School, and Wiley Park Girls' High School. For the whole of her teaching career she has worked tirelessly both within and outside the school, to support newly arrived immigrant students. As Principal of Holroyd, she has led her school in addressing the needs of an expanding enrolment of refugee students who have experienced trauma, terror, displacement and detention. As a result of her efforts to maximise the educational potential of these young people, to promote Human Rights policy and practice, and to enable these students to access public resources and support, the Senate today makes her an Honorary Fellow of this University.

Dorothy Hoddinott’s conspicuous and continued involvement in the education of immigrant and refugee students has significantly enlarged educational opportunities among persons who would otherwise have had limited prospects of entering the University.

Students arriving from Afghanistan and Iraq over the last 10 and more years have particularly benefited from the culture that Dorothy Hoddinott has created at Holroyd High School. She has taken the concerns of holders of Temporary Protection Visas, directly to Ministers and university authorities. She has created funds through her personal and professional networks to provide financial support to families and students who are prevented from accessing regular student assistance through their Temporary Protection Visa status. In
2002, Dorothy established a school trust fund to support young refugees in their education and in 2003 established a donor fund through the National Foundation of Australian Women for young female refugees.

Dorothy Hoddinott has long been a strong public advocate for the human rights of refugees. She is the NSW Secondary Principals’ Council representative on the NSW Director-General’s Advisory Group for Multicultural Education and Training, and the NSW Department of Education and Training Gender Equity Group. In 2004, her work in this area was given recognition in her nomination for the Australian Human Rights Medal. In 2005, Dorothy Hoddinott was commended in the New South Wales Meritorious Service to Public Education and Training Awards.

In addition to her assistance to individual students and their families, Dorothy Hoddinott has, throughout her professional career, played a leadership role in the development of curricula which address the needs of students for whom English is a Second Language. As an officer, and then as a Member of the NSW Board of Studies, she played a critical role in the development and implementation of appropriate English language syllabuses for students from non English speaking backgrounds.

She was President of the Association of Teachers of English as a Second Language for an important period, and served on its Board for over 20 years. She was President of the NSW Joint Council of Professional Teachers Associations, now the NSW Professional Teachers’ Council, and served on its Board for 20 years. She was the author of the Professional Teachers’ Council Human Rights Policy (2002). The establishment of the National Association of Professional Teachers’ Councils was her initiative, and she was its inaugural President. Through her leadership and advocacy, teacher professional associations now have a national voice in educational policy development and decision-making.

Dorothy Hoddinott is a leading educator, and a person of great integrity and determination, who has played a significant part in the lives of thousands of students who will live in and contribute to Australia’s future.

Chancellor, I present Dorothy Jane Hoddinott and invite you to confer upon her the title of Honorary Fellow of the University.