

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNIVERSITY

This award recognises staff and alumni of the University whose contributions to the economic, cultural, scientific or social development of Australia or the international community have demonstrated distinguished service of a high degree.

NB: In 2004, this award was called the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to the University

Professor John McMillan

John McMillan graduated from the Australian National University in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts, and in 1972 with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours. Since graduating, Professor McMillan has led a varied career in law, government and community affairs, including as Associate to Justice Mason in the High Court of Australia and as a consultant to many parliamentary and governmental inquiries on aspects of administrative and constitutional law. He has also published widely on administrative law, constitutional law and public administration. He was a founding member of the Freedom of Information Campaign Committee, which led the public campaign for enactment of the *Freedom on Information Act* in 1982. More recently, he was a founding member, and then President of the Australian Institute of Administrative Law.

From 1983 to 1995, John McMillan lectured in law at the Faculty of Law at the ANU, and received the Vice Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1995. He then held the position of Reader in Law and Deputy Dean of Students at the ANU Law Faculty until 2000, when he was appointed Professor in Law, holding the Alumni Chair in Administrative Law. Since 2003, Professor McMillan has been on leave from the ANU, during his five-year appointment as the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

As the Commonwealth Ombudsman, John McMillan also fulfils the role of Tax Ombudsman, Defence Force Ombudsman and ACT Ombudsman, and also reviews complaints under the *Australian Federal Police (Complaints) Act 1981*. As ombudsman, he plays an important role in strengthening the accountability of government administration and in improving the community's satisfaction with government agencies.

The University presents this award to John McMillan in recognition of his outstanding achievements in law and for his contributions to the Australian community.

Citation read on 29 July 2004, on presentation of award.