

Peter Bailey Honoured with ANU Vice-Chancellor's Award



The ANU College of Law congratulates Adjunct Professor Peter Bailey for receiving a 2010 ANU Vice-Chancellor's Award for Career Achievement.

In her citation, Professor Fiona Wheeler describes Peter as 'an Australian National University living treasure'. After noting that he 'commenced at the University at age 60 after retiring from a distinguished career at the highest levels of the Australian Public Service,' the citation continues:

'Peter's first position at ANU was as a Visiting Fellow in the Faculty of Law "appointed to teach" for two years from 1 July 1987. Since then, he has built a "post-retirement" career as an inspirational teacher, distinguished scholar, passionate advocate for human rights, and generous and gracious colleague.

Over the past 23 years, Peter has taught at undergraduate and postgraduate level, primarily in the field of public law. He has convened the undergraduate LLB course Human Rights Law in Australia for many years and has regularly taught postgraduate courses in Legal Reasoning and Research, Executive Power, and Anti-Discrimination Law. In the early 1990s, he founded the Law School's internship program, with great success. In 2010, Peter is again teaching two masters courses and Human Rights Law in Australia in the LLB/JD. Over his two decades at ANU, he has also supervised numerous honours students—a total of 11 in the past three years alone. Peter's concern and respect for his students is legendary.

Alongside Peter's achievements as an educator, he has distinguished himself as a scholar. His most recent book, [*The Human Rights Enterprise: In Australia and Internationally*](#) (a monumental 976 pages) was published in 2009 by leading international legal publisher LexisNexis. This weighty book joins his other works, including *Human Rights: Australia in an International Context* (1990), *Bringing Human Rights to Life* (1993) and the title entry *Civil and Political Rights* for *Halsbury's Laws of Australia* (1998).

Peter's passionate commitment to human rights and, in particular, his respect for the dignity of every human being, has informed his service to the ANU College of Law, the ANU and the wider community. He served as Chair of Toad Hall (1993-1994), taking up that position at a difficult period in the life of the residence. He was foundation convenor of the ANU Council Committee Against Sexual Harassment (1989-1995 and 1997) and served as Chair of the ANU Discrimination and Harassment Survey Committee (2000-2002). In the ANU College of Law, Peter has served in numerous administrative and committee positions, including as Co-Director of Teaching and Learning and Coordinator, Distinguished Visiting Fellow Program. Outside the University, he has served in many community organisations, including on the Board of Relationships Australia since 1966 and as President of the Canberra Branch of the International Commission of Jurists (1997-2001).

Peter's achievements within the University go far beyond the formal roles he has occupied. Time and again he has spoken up in University forums for the disadvantaged and marginalised. In doing so, his tone has never been abrasive or sanctimonious; rather, Peter's characteristic humanity has always prevailed in his dealings with others.

As a colleague, Peter is unfailingly generous, humble and self-effacing, always willing to lend assistance to others. At age 82 (going on 83), he is an inspiration to younger colleagues and an embodiment of why "ageism" is wrong. As Peter rides into work on his mountain-bike, rushes off to play squash or dons his leathers to ride his motorcycle, we marvel at his many achievements!