

S P E A K E R S

Professor Richard Johnstone

Executive Director

The Carrick Institute for Learning & Teaching in Higher Education



Richard Johnstone is the Executive Director of the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education, a post he had held since November 2005. The Carrick Institute, named after a former Federal Minister for Education, Sir John Carrick, was established by the Commonwealth government to oversee a series of programs, including Awards and Grants schemes, designed to enhance the quality of teaching and learning in Australian higher education.

Richard Johnstone was born in Newcastle in New South Wales. He studied English and Economics at the University of Newcastle and then went on to complete his doctorate in English at Cambridge University. His thesis, on 'Fiction and Belief in England in the Nineteen-thirties', formed the basis of his book *The Will to Believe*, published by Oxford University Press in 1982. He has continued to publish in the area of modern literature and culture, on such topics as autobiography, travel writing, and television drama.

Professor Johnstone began his career by lecturing in English Literature at La Trobe University from 1976 to 1979, and then from 1979 to 1984 at what is now the University of Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom. He returned to Australia in 1984 and subsequently held a range of senior university appointments, including Dean of Arts and then Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Charles Sturt University, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic Support) at the University of Sydney, and Pro Vice-Chancellor (Teaching and Learning) at the University of Technology, Sydney, a post he occupied from 2000 to 2005.

Professor Johnstone has served on a number of national bodies relating to higher education. He was the Deputy Chair of two predecessor committees to the Carrick Institute, the Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development from 1997 to 1999, followed by the Australian Universities Teaching Committee from 2000 to 2004. Since 2001 he has been a member and Deputy Chair of the Board of Graduate Careers Australia, the body that is responsible for the national Course Experience Questionnaire. This is an annual survey that collates the views of all recent graduates of Australian universities on the quality of the education they have received.

In 2001 Professor Johnstone was awarded the Centenary Medal for his contribution to teaching and learning in Australian higher education.