

## AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2000 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA (TEAM AWARD)

### DISCIPLINE

English & Literary Studies  
Linguistics  
Writing  
Academic Literacies

### RESEARCH AREAS

English  
Writing  
Narratives of War

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## PROFESSOR CLAIRE WOODS



### TEAM MEMBERS

Professor Claire Woods, Ruth Trig, Doctor Mia Stephens,  
Doctor Paul Skrebels & David Homer

### BACKGROUND

Professor Woods was a senior manager in the State Education Department before joining the South Australian Institute of Technology. She took on a senior role as a Head of School in the newly formed UniSA. All the Award team members had trained as secondary teachers and taught in high schools and/or CAEs prior to the establishment of the University of South Australia. The founding of a new university gave the opportunity for new discipline teams to develop innovative programs and degrees. The teaching team involved in the Award moved into the areas of English and literary studies, linguistics and writing, which merged as they developed a new BA in Writing and Communication. The aim was to establish a degree with an applied as well as theoretical focus, different from a standard BA. The degree flourished as it evolved. All members of the teaching team continued to build or develop research profiles alongside their teaching in the undergraduate program. They all supervised students in a highly successful honours program. Professor Woods and Dr Skrebels supervised PhD students as the University established and developed its doctoral programs – particularly those in the writing discipline

### IMPACT ON LEARNING & TEACHING

In her Visiting Scholar role at universities in Europe and the UK, Professor Woods focussed on the integrated curriculum with its emphasis on student research, and applied and creative practice within an undergraduate program. The Award raised the profile of L&T within UniSA in general and added impetus for improvement. Following the Award, a mentoring program was instituted – particularly, senior female academics were encouraged to mentor young female academics. This led to a strong research, teaching & learning culture at the UniSA. After the Award, Professor Woods was invited to take on substantially more mentoring work, including Award preparation workshops.

### IMPACT ON CAREER

This Award provided a heightened profile for all the team members. Funding provided opportunities for L&T and discipline conferences nationally and internationally, and to fund student research projects, leading to publication. Three members were published in national and international journals. The other team members made teaching part of their research and presented their work nationally and internationally. The Award highlighted team members' expertise and they were invited to various local and international associations and conferences. The Award provided important recognition of the kind of teaching and curriculum development that the team had espoused.

### CURRENT ROLE

Professor Claire Woods and Dr Paul Skrebels, are still active independent researchers, though both have relatively recently retired from the University of South Australia (UniSA). Dr Mia Stephens retired from UniSA but currently works part time as an editor in a book publishing company. Mr David Homer and Ms Ruth Trigg are both retired.

### WHAT THE AWARD HAS MEANT

Validation | Delight | Acknowledgement |  
Recognition

### MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Team members invited to a range of national and international conferences and forums;

Professor Woods was invited to share the approach the team was taking at University of Queensland (UQ);

Professor Woods invited to be a Visiting Fellow at UQ, as well as in the UK and Europe;

Enhanced research output by individual team members due to the recognition of the approach taken to curriculum, teaching and learning.

### NETWORKS

Professional networks | national & international discipline associations