Ian Hanger’s association with the Queensland Conservatorium began with his personal interest in music as a student of the flute. Throughout his university days, he maintained his musical interests as an instrumentalist and choral singer. He studied also with James Carson. He became President of the Friends of the Conservatorium and in 1983 he was appointed a member of the Council of the Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

In 1991, on the occasion of the amalgamation of the Queensland Conservatorium with Griffith University, he was elected as the Chairman of the new Advisory Council, a position he occupied until 1996. In this role he oversaw a significant period in the history and development of the Queensland Conservatorium. He was unrelenting in his pursuit of State Government support and strongly advocated the relocation of the Queensland Conservatorium to its current home at South Bank. He also accepted membership of the Griffith University Fund Committee and through his network of contacts provided opportunities for supporters of the Queensland Conservatorium to assist with the acquisition of much needed resources.

In recognition of Ian Hanger’s long-standing support, the University named the Recital Hall of the Queensland Conservatorium the Ian Hanger Recital Hall.

In his professional life, Ian Hanger pursued a distinguished legal career which included appointments as Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry into Industrial Relations in Queensland (1987/88), Senior Counsel assisting the Parliamentary Judges Commission of Inquiry (1988/89) and Senior Counsel assisting the Commission of Inquiry into the Criminal Justice Commission (1996/97).