

Philanthropist wins national award for extensive health research support

Thousands of people will enjoy a better quality of life thanks to the generous philanthropic donations of an extraordinary Australian, who has been recognised by a national award.

Clive Berghofer AM, from Toowoomba in Queensland, will be awarded the Great Australian Philanthropy Award at tonight's Research Australia "Thank You" Day Awards (Friday 20 November) in Melbourne.

Mr Berghofer has contributed \$7 million to the Queensland Institute of Medical Research since 2002 which has facilitated the faster development of a new cancer immunotherapy. He also supports the Red Cross, St Vincent's Hospital, the Toowoomba Hospice and Careflight South West Helicopter Rescue Service to name a few. There are numerous other organisations that benefit from his generosity annually.

Mr Berghofer's philanthropic generosity has seen the development of superior methods to fight cancer and related diseases and will ensure better quality of life for thousands of people for generations to come.

Among six awards, the Macquarie Group Foundation Great Australian Philanthropy Award recognises and encourages personal philanthropic donations over a period of time by an individual or family to health and medical research. Previous recipients include Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, AC, DBE, Lady Mary Fairfax and the Myer Family.

Julie White, Head of the Macquarie Group Foundation which is the Award's supporter, said the Macquarie Group Foundation is proud to be associated with Research Australia's "Thank You" Day Awards and delighted that Mr Berghofer's outstanding philanthropic work is being acknowledged.

"The Macquarie Group Foundation Great Australian Philanthropy Award recognises and applauds the importance of individual benefactors. Mr Berghofer's personal commitment to improve his community of Toowoomba in the area of health and research as well as his extensive support of other leading community organisations is inspirational. This is a very well deserved accolade," Ms White said.

The Awards celebrate the achievements of organisations and individuals who have helped advance medical and health research in Australia. They are a highlight of Research Australia's "Thank You" Day campaign to raise public awareness about the benefits of health and medical research to the community.

The "Thank You" Day awards will be held tonight (Friday 20 November) at BMW Edge, Federation Square, Melbourne. This year's winners are:

- Macquarie Group Foundation Great Australian Philanthropy Award: **Clive Berghofer AM**
- Victorian Government Leadership and Innovation Award: **Professor Joseph Sambrook**
- Griffith University Discovery Award: **Dr Sarah Whittle**
- Advocacy Award: Professor **Ian Hickie AM FASSA**
- Leadership in Corporate Giving Award: **Macquarie Group Foundation**
- Research Australia Lifetime Achievement Award: **Elaine Henry OAM**

MEDIA: To arrange an interview or a photograph, please contact:

Melina Schamroth

0409 833 848 or melina@madwoman.com.au

About Research Australia

Research Australia is the peak not-for-profit body for health and medical research. It is a national alliance of more than 180 member and supporting organisations working together to promote health and medical research in Australia. For more information please visit www.researchaustralia.org.