

Mental health researcher wins national advocacy award

After 18 years at the forefront of raising community and government awareness about the importance of mental health issues, Professor Ian Hickie will be recognised with a national award.

Professor Hickie AM FASSA of the Brain and Mind Research Institute (BMRI) will be awarded the Advocacy Award at this tonight's (Friday 20 November) Research Australia "Thank You" Day Awards in Melbourne.

Professor Hickie has successfully lobbied State and Federal Government large increases in funding for health and medical research – particularly in the field of Mental Health.

Appointed the inaugural CEO of Beyond Blue in 2000, Prof Hickie is now the Executive Director of the BMRI and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Sydney. In 2006 Prof Hickie received the Australian Honours Award of Member (AM) for services to medicine in the development of key national mental health initiatives.

Among six awards, the Advocacy Award recognises Australian's from the health and medical research community or media community who has raised awareness of the benefits of health and medical research and the need for increased funding.

Previous recipients of this award include Sarah Murdoch, Delta Goodrem, Ricky Ponting and Lisa Wilkinson.

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:

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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.