

Sidney Sax Public Health Medal

The Public Health Association of Australia, in 2000, initiated the first Public Health Medal. This Medal was designed to be the Associations pre-eminent prize. The Medal is awarded every year.

In 2001, the Public Health Medal was renamed the Sidney Sax Public Health Medal in honour of the late Dr Sidney Sax.

The PHAA bestows this competitive award on a person who has provided a notable contribution to the protection and promotion of public health, solving public health problems, advancing community awareness of public health measures and advancing the ideals and practice of equity in the provision of health care.

To be eligible a nominee must:

- Have a proven track record in the advancement of public health in Australia;
- Be an Australian citizen or resident; and,
- Have undertaken his/her activities in Australia.

The criteria for the Medal are that nominees will have actively engaged in work or activities in Australia designed to achieve one or more of the following:

- Protect and promote public health in Australia;
- Promote multi-disciplinary approaches to designing public health solutions and solving public health problems;
- Advance community awareness of public health measures and outcomes and the real cost of inadequate public health responses; and,
- Advance the ideals and practice of equity in provision of health care (equity defined as equal care for equal need).

Winners of the Medal are:

2009 – Professor Stephen Leeder

Awarded to Professor Stephen Leeder from the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and professor of public and community medicine at the University of Sydney. Professor Leeder is a giant of Australian public health, he has been a leading researcher, administrator, reformer and mentor for more than 35 years.

2008 – Professor Simon Chapman

Awarded to Professor Simon Chapman from the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney. Simon has been prominent in the Australian and international public health movements for over thirty years. His contributions to reducing tobacco use and the harms it causes, to gun control, the consumer movement and to public debate about a wide range of public health issues have made him one of Australia's most recognised and respected figures in public health.

2007 – Patricia Anderson

Awarded to Pat Anderson for her extensive track record in the advancement of public health, in particular the advance of the health of Australia's Indigenous people. Over two decades

Pat has been involved in public health in Australia and has worked within and on the outside of government systems. She has recognised the inequities in Indigenous health in Australia and has driven a strong public health agenda for communities and to build a healthy future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

2006 - Professor D'Arcy Holman

Awarded to Professor D'Arcy Holman for his outstanding and innovative work as an epidemiologist and his extraordinarily productive contributions to research, teaching, the development of epidemiology - including data linkage in Australia, work in health communications and his work with national and state government health departments, health organisations, health advocacy organisations and community groups.

D'Arcy has provided outstanding leadership, has a remarkable number of achievements, across a wide breadth and range of public health issues. But he is also known for his generous contributions to so many public health causes, organisations and individuals. He has been a constant and willing supporter of public health activity and people working in public health. Some of his achievements, such as leadership in data linkage, will be well known; others, such as his work in mental health, with the Cancer Council, or mentoring and supporting others, have been much less well publicised.

2005 - Dr. John Scott

Awarded this Medal for his strong and consistent history of leadership at both state and national levels in the protection and promotion of public health in Australia. John is well known for his development of public health services, in particular services in Queensland and those that have been developed via the National Public Health Partnership. John's strong leadership secured additional investments in public health helping the core public health capacity grow of Queensland to grow considerably. His leadership in public health services is epitomised by investments in needle and syringe availability, drug courts, improvements to Indigenous public health and primary health care services and in his advocacy for collaborative national action on a broad range of public health issues as both a member and the Chair of the National Public Health Partnership.

2004 - Associate Professor David Legge

Awarded the Sidney Sax Medal in 2004 for his pioneer work in community participation in health services in Victoria and his contributions to a wide range of health policies including regionalisation of community health, and the District Health Council's Program.

2003 - Professor Annette Dobson

Awarded the Sidney Sax Medal in 2003, for her long term dedication to public health education and commitment to developing integrative and multi-disciplinary approaches to solving public health problems in Australia and overseas.

2002 - Professor Judith Lumley

Awarded the Sidney Sax Medal in 2002, for her more than two decades of work dedicated to the promotion of public health and for her efforts in improving maternal care in Australia.

2001 - Professor Mary Sheehan

Awarded the Sidney Sax Medal 2001, in recognition of her involvement in teaching, education, research and service in promotion of public health over the past twenty years.

2000 - Dr. Neil Blewitt

The inaugural Public Health Medal, later renamed the Sidney Sax Medal, was awarded to Dr Neal Blewitt in 2000 for his record of advancement of public health in Australia.