

PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
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**TOP PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD FOR PROFESSOR STEPHEN LEEDER OF SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY**

Australia's leading national public health award, the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) Sidney Sax Public Health Medal, has been awarded to Professor Stephen Leeder of the University of Sydney.

The Sidney Sax Public Health Medal is awarded annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to public health. The 2009 Sidney Sax Medal was presented to Professor Stephen Leeder at PHAA's Annual Conference in Canberra by the Chair of the National Preventative Health Taskforce, Professor Rob Moodie.

Professor Leeder is Director of the Menzies Centre for Health Policy and professor of public and community medicine at the University of Sydney, where he was Dean of the Medical Faculty between 1996 - 2002.

The nomination for the Medal notes that Professor Leeder is "a giant of Australian public health" who has influenced generations of public health leaders, has been a leading researcher, administrator, reformer and mentor for more than 35 years, has played a leading role in both national and international research and policy development, was President of PHAA for two terms, and has been a constant advocate for greater community awareness of environmental and lifestyle health issues.

Presenting the award, Professor Rob Moodie, Chair of the National Preventative Health Taskforce, commented on Professor Leeder's extensive contribution to public health in Australia and internationally, his "provocative, erudite and renaissance intellect" and "irrepressible community values", and said that his "influence on better health outcomes cannot be underestimated".

PHAA President Professor Mike Daube said, "Steve Leeder is an icon of public health in Australia. His career has been dedicated to serving the community through research, teaching, advocacy, administration, mentoring and policy development. He has had an enormous influence on public health policy and practise in Australia and internationally. Few people have contributed as much to the health and well-being of Australians. This award is fitting recognition for a lifetime of exceptional achievement".

For further information/comment:

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