

MEDIA RELEASE

Pat McGorry: a great choice as Australian of the Year!

The Mental Health Council of Australia (MHCA) has welcomed the appointment of Professor Pat McGorry as Australian of the Year for 2010.

Professor McGorry is not only a highly respected leader within the mental health sector, he is someone who has changed the way we respond to youth mental health in Australia and internationally.

Pat McGorry's ground breaking work with young Australians and people experiencing their first psychosis has been acknowledged as critical in establishing early intervention programs in Australia and overseas.

David Crosbie, CEO of the MHCA, said today: "Pat is a psychiatrist, an academic, and a service manager who has developed his expert knowledge about mental illness into new policies and programs that have directly benefited our community. He is a real leader who has taken many of us with him on his quest to ensure young people get a better deal from our mental health services.

"Perhaps just as importantly Pat McGorry has that great Australian capacity be practical, to see a way of doing the difficult, and to overcome adversity. He is a very approachable and engaged down to earth Australian – and is as happy discussing the latest theory of the mind as he is discussing the football.

"I cannot think of anyone more deserving of the honour of Australian of the Year," Mr Crosbie said.

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