

Child health focus on prevention

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 25, 2003

Australian of the Year Professor Fiona Stanley AC has made an enormous contribution to child health through her commitment to ensuring that research results are translated into action to make a real difference to children's lives.

The Chairman of the Board of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, Mr Kevin Campbell AM, said Professor Stanley was a visionary in her field.

"Fiona's ability to see the big picture has set her apart," Mr Campbell said.

"From the time this Institute was established in 1990, the focus has been on identifying the pathways that lead to disease and disability with the aim of finding ways to prevent them.

"This approach has been particularly apparent in the Institute's leading work on spina bifida, asthma, meningitis and mental health.

"The philosophy has been that while research is expensive, the emotional and financial costs of treatment are so much greater."

Mr Campbell said that while Professor Stanley has an international reputation as an epidemiologist, her ability to inspire and lead is equally impressive.

"As founding Director of the Institute, she has brought together outstanding researchers from different areas of science to work together on major childhood diseases and disabilities," he said.

"With her colleagues, she has proven that it is possible to conduct world class research in Western Australia and to not simply reverse the brain drain, but attract international researchers.

"We're very honoured and proud to have her as Director and congratulate her on this well deserved national honour."

The Telethon Institute for Child Health Research was established in 1990 and is supported by the Western Australian community through the Channel Seven annual Telethon. It currently employs more than 330 staff at its purpose built facility in Subiaco.

Major research areas include: asthma and allergies, children's leukaemia and cancer, aboriginal child health, birth defects, child and adolescent mental health, childhood disabilities, infectious diseases and perinatal epidemiology.

Media contact: Elizabeth Chester
0409 988 530 (mobile)
elizabeth@ichr.uwa.edu.au
www.ichr.uwa.edu.au