



THE HON NICOLA ROXON MP
Minister for Health and Ageing

MEDIA RELEASE

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**PROFESSOR MELISSA WAKE WINNER OF THE MINISTER'S AWARD FOR
HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Outstanding medical researcher and paediatrician Professor Melissa Wake has been awarded the 2009 Federal Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research—recognising her landmark work to solve common child health problems.

Professor Wake has spent her career focused on finding practical clinical strategies to improve hearing, language and literacy, obesity and early mental health in Australian children.

The \$50,000 research grant and medal were presented last night by Bill Shorten, Parliamentary Secretary for Disabilities and Children's Services, on my behalf.

Professor Wake is an exceptionally talented researcher whose commitment to improving the health and quality of life of younger Australians, as well as reducing future pressures on the health system, is admirable.

She has had considerable achievements in Victoria, including the development of a range of practical tools and resources for Victorian maternal and child health nurses to assist with the detection of obesity in toddlers and preschoolers.

Professor Wake is assisted by a supportive team at the Centre for Community Child Health at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne—and is a fantastic role model who has attracted exceptional young researchers to children's population health.

The Federal Health Minister's Award for Excellence in Health and Medical Research recognises outstanding achievement, and potential for future achievement by a young Australian researcher. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommend the highest ranked NHMRC Career Development Award recipients from the previous year to the Minister for Health and Ageing for the final selection.

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