

Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism
Minister for the Hunter
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



Tuesday 23 June, 2009

Minister congratulates world leading NSW scholars

Minister for Science and Medical Research Jodi McKay today congratulated seven world-class scholars who will lead cutting-edge research teams across NSW under the Australian Research Council's Australian Laureate Fellowship Program.

Ms McKay said the Commonwealth Government has announced 15 internationally renowned scholars who will be awarded Australian Laureate Fellowships worth around \$2.7 million each.

"NSW will be home to almost half the scholars, with seven scientists to be based at six of our universities," Ms McKay said.

"This reaffirms NSW is leading the nation in innovative scientific research and advancement.

"The Fellows are from Australian and international institutions and were selected from a highly competitive field of 148 researchers."

Ms McKay said a number of the State's most promising postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers will have the opportunity to work with the world renowned Laureates as part of their research teams.

"The focus of this year's Laureate program is on public health, security, and the environment including two projects in geosciences," Ms McKay said.

"This research will help tackle practical problems in areas of great importance to NSW."

"This includes new studies in Aboriginal mental health and environmental sustainability, world leading work in nutrition and understanding obesity, as well as research into laws to protect the community from terrorism."

Ms McKay said the Federal Australian Laureate Fellowships is a great opportunity to grow NSW's knowledge sector.

"This program will provide world-class mentoring to support the talented scientists in NSW as well as encouraging world-leading scientists to return to our shores."

The NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer, Professor Mary O'Kane applauded the outcome.

"There is great value in fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange between world leading experts and our best and brightest," Professor O'Kane said.

"I have no doubt that work led by the 2009 Australian Laureate Fellows will spur some great local and global partnerships to help our leading scientists tackle major health and environmental challenges in the years to come."

2009 Australian Laureate Fellows – NSW recipients

Dr Bernard Balleine - University of Sydney

Professor Richard Bryant – University of NSW

Professor Lesley Head – University of Sydney

Professor Dietmar Muller – University of Sydney

Professor George Williams - University of NSW

Professor Scott Sloan - University of Newcastle

Professor Stephen Simpson - University of Sydney

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