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## **Prestigious Sidney Sax and PHAA Mentor of the Year awarded at joint Conference**

### **Sidney Sax**

Professor Heather Yeatman has been awarded the Sidney Sax Award by the Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA). The award was presented at the joint PHAA 44<sup>th</sup> Annual and 20<sup>th</sup> Chronic Diseases Network Conference dinner.

Professor Heather Yeatman is the Head, School of Health and Society and Professor in Public and Population Health at the University of Wollongong.

“I was so shocked by the announcement and feel honoured to receive the award among public health greats including Neal Blewett AC, Stephen Leeder AO, Simon Chapman AO and Mike Daube and Nicola Roxon. I feel so humbled to be recognised for my work in the public health field and hope to live up to the award,” said past PHAA President Professor Yeatman.

PHAA bestows the award each year to a person who has provided a notable contribution to the protection and promotion of public health, solving public health problems, advancing community awareness of public health measures and advancing the ideals and practice of equity in the provision of health care.

“Heather is utterly deserving of this award. She has made enormous contributions to public health especially in food and nutrition. Her dedication to the PHAA as the president of the Board since 2012 has played an integral part in establishing the strong advocacy work the PHAA presents today. She has served two terms as President on the Board and will stay on as Vice-President of Development. Her knowledge and experience is paramount to developing strong policies especially in food and nutrition,” says PHAA CEO Michael Moore.

“The Board of the PHAA considered a number of outstanding candidates for this award (and without her knowledge) determined to recognise Heather as the Sidney Sax recipient. We look forward to working with her in her new role on the Board,” said Mr Moore.

Professor Yeatman has worked in food and nutrition policy across the spectrum of local, state, national and international levels and has held leadership positions on numerous government and non-government boards and committees, including food standards, complementary medicines, animal welfare, agricultural chemicals and Tick criteria.

### **Mentor of the Year**

Yesterday at the PHAA Annual General Meeting, the PHAA Mentor of the Year was presented to Dr Melissa Stoneham.

“Dr Stoneham’s leadership in public health over many years has been consistently underpinned by a strong commitment to mentoring, both personally and through developing and supporting mentoring programs across many different aspects of public health,” said Mr Moore.

This award is made to a senior member of PHAA who has made a significant contribution to mentoring early-career professionals, practitioners and/or students to acknowledge a public health professional. Its purpose is to formally acknowledge the importance of mentoring in career development and in recognition of the time commitments and other sacrifices that are involved for mentors.

Based in Western Australia, Dr Stoneham said mentoring has been a key focus of her work through the PHAA and has enjoyed actively mentoring many young, and mid-career public health professionals and researchers in the community.

As a PHAA committee member and former WA Branch Vice President, she knows the importance of mentorship to mould the new leaders at the PHAA and in public health.

“With Melissa’s support, many students and young professionals have had the confidence to join PHAA and advocate on behalf of PHAA. She has also developed projects including Opinion Piece and Yellow Brick Road series of forums to support younger health professionals to promote their work,” said Mr Moore.

“We’re proud to present the Mentor of the Year award to Dr Stoneham and honoured to have her as a dedicated and passionate member. Mentorship is so important to young professionals entering the industry and PHAA knows the importance of the mentor/mentee relationship and hope more members will reflect Dr Stoneham’s commitment to mentoring,” concluded Mr Moore.

***The joint [PHAA 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and 20<sup>th</sup> Chronic Diseases Network Conference](#) will be held from 18 – 21 September 2016 in Alice Springs, NT. #PHAACDN2016***

**For further information/comment:**

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