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National recognition for medical heroes

Royal Prince Alfred Hospital has once again been acknowledged through the work of two esteemed clinicians and researchers in the annual Australia Day honours list.

Cardiologist Professor Chris Semsarian was awarded an Order of Australia for significant services to cardiology and community education.

Professor Semsarian works with patients with cardiac conduction disorders and is well known for his campaign to have portable defibrillators installed in schools and for all Australians to learn cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

“I grew up looking at the Australia Day honours list each year, so to be included is very humbling.

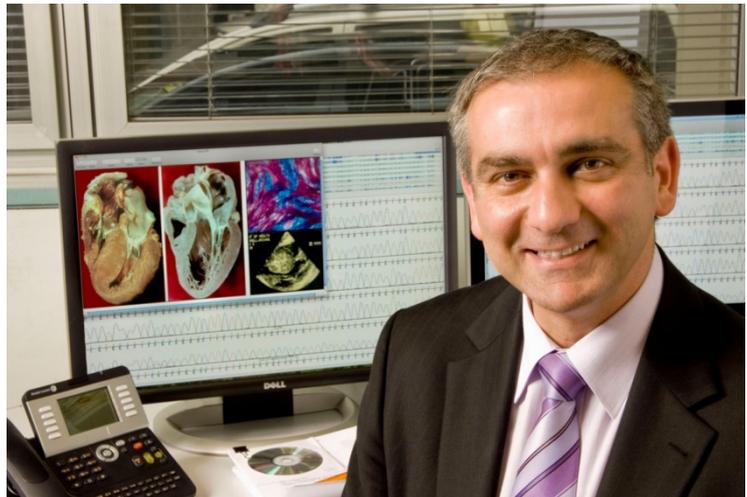
“As the son of immigrants to Australia, this is a complete honour for my family, my team of researchers, my friends and my patients.”

Haematology senior staff specialist Clinical Professor Harry Iland was also awarded an Order of Australia AM for significant service to medicine, and to medical research in haematology, and as a mentor of young scientists.

Professor Iland has led research and clinical trials across Australia in recent decades in the treatment of acute promyelocytic leukaemia and developed an internationally adopted protocol for treatment of the disease.

“This is a great honour and I feel very privileged and humbled to receive this award. This work is only possible because of a number of others who have contributed, at RPA and across Australia.”

The general manager of RPA, Deborah Willcox, said the honours were fitting recognition for the years of service both have provided to RPA and the community.



“I would like to congratulate Professor Semsarian and Professor Iland on their service to RPA and the District and for the decades they’ve committed to helping our community, our patients and their families.

“Their passion, dedication and knowledge make them both truly deserving of this recognition,” Ms Willcox said.

The awards also honoured former Director of the District’s Centre for Education and Workforce Development Mira Haramis with a public service medal for outstanding public service to education and training in the health sector in NSW.

Ms Haramis worked at a senior level in education and training within the public health system for more than 30 years and successfully pioneered the development and implementation of numerous innovative and large scale programs across the health workforce.

The award commended the dedication of her professional career to enabling health professionals the access to the best education and training opportunities, and ensuring that patient and family care is provided at the highest standard to the community.