

"Thank You"
Day

Research Australia

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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed until 5am November 28, 2008

Top indigenous entertainer awarded for health work

One of Australia's leading Aboriginal entertainers has been honoured for his work offstage, helping hundreds of indigenous Australians to access better health care.

Aboriginal singer-songwriter Dr Jimmy Little was awarded the National Health and Medical Research Council Advocacy Award at Research Australia's 'Thank You' Day Awards in Sydney last night.

Dr Little – who rose to fame in the late '50s and '60s with hits such as *Danny Boy* and *Royal Telephone* – was nominated for the award by Baxter Healthcare for his long-term dedication to raising awareness of health issues affecting indigenous Australians.

After suffering kidney failure and having a kidney transplant in 2004, Dr Little set up the Jimmy Little Foundation to improve the health of indigenous Australians, especially in the area of kidney disease, a common illness amongst the indigenous community.

Dr Little, who lives at Lilyfield in Sydney's inner western suburbs, said he was honoured to receive the award.

"The Jimmy Little Foundation is just one of many organisations dedicated to helping make a healthier future for indigenous Australians," Dr Little said.

"I accept this on behalf of all the other hard working people also involved in this pursuit," he said.

Rebecca James, CEO of Research Australia, said Dr Little was a very worthy recipient.

"It is because of Dr Little's efforts that an increasing number of indigenous people are able to access good quality healthcare," Ms James said.

The 'Thank You' Day Awards are the culmination of Research Australia's 'Thank You' Day campaign to raise awareness of health and medical research in the community.

'Thank You' Day on November 29 2008 is an opportunity for Australians to send messages of thanks to researchers working in different fields. The messages show the strength of community support for Australian health and medical research, and underline the importance of continued funding for medical research.

Messages are being collected until the end of the year online at www.thankyouday.org and via SMS 0428THANKS.

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Research Australia is a unique national not-for-profit alliance of more than 190 member and donor organisations with a common mission to make health and medical research a higher national priority. For more information on Research Australia visit www.researchaustralia.org.

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