

Media Release

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VICHEALTH CONGRATULATES DR LYN ROBERTS ON ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

VicHealth has congratulated its Principal Adviser Dr Lyn Roberts who was awarded an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list announced today (8 June).

Dr Roberts received the honour in recognition of her distinguished contribution to community health through executive and governmental advisory roles in a range of public outreach and education initiatives aimed at improving cardiovascular health in a career spanning over 25 years.

VicHealth CEO Jerril Rechter said the prestigious award was a wonderful tribute to Dr Roberts' outstanding work in public health and leadership in chronic disease prevention at a state, national and global level.

"As a passionate health advocate, Lyn has devoted her life to issues including obesity, mental wellbeing and, in particular, tobacco control. VicHealth is honoured to have an expert of her calibre working with us as we address these important health issues," Ms Rechter said.

"Lyn has made a critical contribution to VicHealth's ground breaking health promotion work over the last year, with a particular focus on our Leading Thinkers program – which brings a Behavioural Insights approach and international expertise together to develop innovative solutions to the complex issue of overweight and obesity.

"This is an extremely well-deserved award that recognises her enormous contribution over many years to the health sector and the community – in Victoria, Australia and across the world.

"On behalf of VicHealth, I would like to congratulate Lyn and her family on this special day."

Dr Roberts was chief executive of the National Heart Foundation of Australia from 2001 to 2013. She is currently on the board of directors of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, and is adjunct professor at Deakin University's School of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences.

She also served as vice president of the World Heart Foundation, treasurer and member of the board of the Asia Pacific Heart Network, and chairperson of the board of Child and Youth Health South Australia.

She started her career as a laboratory technician at the University of Western Australia, before working as Technical Officer at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in South Australia and a Research assistant at Flinders University of South Australia.

Dr Roberts said it was an honour to receive the award.

"I'm truly humbled to receive this award for my work which has been a great source of passion for me throughout my life. It's been a honour for me to spend my career tackling tough health issues such as obesity and tobacco control, and I look forward to continuing to make important strides in these areas."

In 1997, Dr Roberts was awarded the Order of Australia Member in the General Division (AM) for services to the community and to health.

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