

## **GOLD MEDAL CITATION - TREVOR CANNING**

The College Gold Medal is awarded annually for outstanding achievement. It is recognition by the College to one of its own. Past Gold Medal winners are a group of significant contributors to the College and health management in general.

Tonight we are recognising someone who has done much for the College as have all our past award winners.

Our 2007 winner is a person who is respected by all, who has given exceptional service and shown great leadership. A true professional in every sense of the word and a person who has contributed to the health industry at local, national and international levels as well as having a strong community involvement and commitment.

The 2007 Gold Medal Award goes to Trevor Canning from Western Australia.

Trevor, the College is proud to bestow upon you its 2007 Gold Medal. It indicates our recognition of you as a professional of the highest order and an extraordinary contributor to the life and success of the College.

Trevor commenced his career in 1966 as a Clerk with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He then moved into the public health system to Sunset Hospital and from there to Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital. It was during these years, that you discovered the importance of belonging to a professional College.

You undertook many senior management roles in your career and was Director of Financial Services at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. It was fitting that Trevor ultimately became Chief Executive Officer at Osborne Park Hospital, a place where he began his early working life.

You then moved into General Manager roles in the Department of Health with funding and performance assessment of public hospitals and services. At that point, Trevor, you shifted your focus to the rural sector and put all your efforts into your work at Northern Goldfields Health Services and WA Country Health.

In your capacity as a senior manager in both the public sector and the rural sector, you have worked with distinction by managing large complex health services.

Trevor, with your busy and demanding employment roles, you always found the time to be involved actively with the College and to promote its benefits to young aspiring leaders. Since joining in 1973, and undertaking tertiary qualifications in health administration and accounting, you achieved Fellowship in 1991 and have subsequently been an examiner for many years.

You have held College Executive roles at both Western Australian Branch and Federal Council levels. This included Branch President of Western Australia, culminating in being elected Federal President in 2004. Under your leadership as Federal President you demonstrated a commitment to having a stronger national professional development focus, developing partnerships with our colleagues in the Asia Pacific and the establishment of our own professional journal.

A senior health executive who supported your nomination, summarises Trevor Canning in the most meaningful way:

*Throughout his career, Trevor has been widely recognised amongst his peers, the medical profession, nurses and hospital support staff as a passionate advocate of equitable and accessible health care.*

*His encouragement and mentoring of many of Western Australia's current key health executives is a testimony to Trevor's professional commitment and concern for the professional development of others.*

In all of the many and varied roles that Trevor has undertaken in the Government health industry, he has developed a strong and vibrant culture and sense of purpose.

It is not just in the College, that your attributes of integrity, honesty, innovation and hard work are well known. You have been a surveyor for the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards since 1989, taking part in 57 surveys of which you have been team coordinator on 24 occasions. Your breadth of experience across the public health system, particularly with rural health services has been a most valued attribute. When viewed as part of a busy and at times very demanding employment role, this is a meritorious commitment.

In 2004 you joined the ACHS Council representing the College and have made a positive and significant contribution to the program of activities supporting the quality agenda in the health industry.

Trevor, it is your extensive voluntary and community and interests both within Western Australia and overseas which has seen you pursue social equality and good health for the many community organisations that you work with.

You have been a member of Rotary Club of Scarborough for twelve years during which time you have been a Director and Club President and honoured with two prestigious Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship awards. You have distinguished yourself with tireless efforts in both international and local community service projects.

A Centenary Medal Award in 2003 for your efforts to improving rural health and humanitarian aid is a testament to this work.

You have helped to establish health clinics in remote areas of Kenya, collected unwanted hospital and health equipment and despatched them to needy areas in third world countries. You have also helped to establish WheelChair construction workshops in Kenya and India and arranged the construction of drinking water collection tanks. Indeed, only recently, you helped construct and establish health clinics in southern India.

A truly remarkable achievement.

So Trevor, we recognise you as one who has achieved excellence in health leadership and health management. Your quiet and engaging manner complements your depth and strength of professional commitment. It is my great pleasure to recognise you with the College's highest award.

Congratulations Trevor.