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ANZPAA ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT OF HIGHLY REGARDED FORENSICS AWARD

ANZPAA today announced Professor Roger Byard AO PSM as the recipient of the John Harber Phillips Award for 2018. This Award celebrates excellence in forensic sciences in Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Byard has worked in academic forensic, paediatric forensic pathology and disaster victim identification for over three decades. He has a special interest in sudden infant death syndrome and the mechanisms of sudden death and injury. He has been recognised for his contribution, in Australia and internationally, to preventing childhood accidents and deaths.

ANZPAA CEO Katherine Van Gorp congratulated Professor Byard on receiving the award.

“The Award recognises the achievements of leaders in the forensic sciences field and the critical role they play in the community. Professor Byard’s work is committed to saving lives and preventing deaths. His reach extends across research and education, and he has developed numerous protocols particularly in the field of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. His work has resulted in more effective and sensitive handling of cases, across Australia and internationally,” said Katherine Van Gorp.

Professor Byard’s laboratory and case research has vastly improved knowledge and practice in forensic pathology and the interpretation of pathological findings in courts.

The Director of ANZPAA’s National Institute of Forensic Science, Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde, said the award is richly deserved.

“Professor Byard has undertaken considerable research and has had an immeasurable impact on the practice of forensic pathology. He is dedicated to sharing this knowledge as an academic, researcher and practitioner,” said Dr Linzi Wilson-Wilde.

Professor Byard acknowledges that it is a great honour to receive the Award as a forensic pathologist.

“I think this reflects the strong bonds and collaborations that exist and can be forged between forensic pathology and science.

There are absolutely no limitations to what can be achieved in this field – we are all very lucky to be working in an area with such exciting intellectual opportunities and that is so important in the community,” said Professor Byard.

The John Harber Phillips Award and Medal was formally presented to Professor Roger Byard on 13 September at The Australian and New Zealand Forensic Science Society (ANZFSS) 24th International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences.

For an interview with Prof. Byard, or more information or photographs please contact: Nancy Bakker 0425 380 804.