



MEDIA RELEASE 13 OCTOBER 2016

Problem gambling advocate Richard Brading named winner of 2016 Justice Medal

Richard Brading, a lawyer at Wesley Community Legal Service, has been named the winner of the **2016 Justice Medal** for his outstanding work in providing legal services to problem gamblers and for driving reform in response to the impact of problem gambling on disadvantaged people. The award was presented by Sir Anthony Mason at the 18th annual Justice Awards, hosted by the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW at Parliament House in Sydney.

Director of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW Geoff Mulherin said, *"A true pioneer, Richard Brading established the Wesley Community Legal Service, the world's only free legal service for problem gamblers and their families over 20 years ago. He has provided advice and representation to hundreds of people, in many cases turning their lives around. Richard has also taken gambling operators to task in an effort to reduce the social harm caused by problem gambling."*

Hazel Collins, Laura Lyons, Patricia MacKenzie, Debra Swan, Jennifer Swan and Suellen Tighe, who are Grandmothers Against Removals (GMAR), were presented with the **Aboriginal Justice Award** by The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP for their efforts to ensure there is appropriate Aboriginal participation in child protection decision making.

The **Law and Justice Volunteer Award** was awarded to Janette Perram for her 25 years volunteering at Burwood Court providing support to victims of domestic violence. Wollongong Women's Information Service and the law firm Carter Ferguson won the **Pro Bono Partnership Award** for their collaboration to provide pro bono legal services to women experiencing domestic violence in Wollongong and the Illawarra region.

Two other awards were presented on the evening:

- The **Community Legal Centres NSW Award** was presented to Inner City Legal Centre (ICLC) for their project which provides legal advice and representation for transgender young people going through medical procedures and their families.
 - In the same award category, the Environmental Defenders Office (EDO NSW) was highly commended for their project which encourages community engagement in environmental planning decisions.
- The **Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) Centre of Excellence Award** was awarded jointly to Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library and Tamworth City Library.

Attended by 330 people, the dinner began with a Welcome to Country given by Aunty Norma Ingram. Damien Carrick was the MC and Stan Grant delivered the 2016 Law and Justice Address.

About the Justice Awards

The Justice Awards recognise individuals and groups who have made an outstanding contribution to improving access to justice, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people in NSW.

About the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW

The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW was founded in 1967 and improves access to justice for the community, especially socially and economically disadvantaged people. In 2017, the Foundation will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

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