



24 March 2004

**BLACK DOG INSTITUTE CREDENTIALS RECOGNISED
AS PROFESSOR NAMED AMONGST THE NATION'S TOP SCIENTISTS**

The international reputation of the NSW-based Black Dog Institute has been boosted following the naming of its Executive Director, Professor Gordon Parker, amongst the world's leading researchers.

Professor Parker is rated as the top Australian in his field of psychiatry/psychology.

He was amongst 17 Australian researchers that have been identified as leaders in Australian Research by the major American information provider, Thomson ISI, a global leader in providing essential, high quality Web-based information to over seven million researchers, information specialists, and administrators in diverse fields.

The researchers, who work in fields ranging across the sciences to the social sciences and humanities, and include space scientists, pharmacologists, philosophers and economists, have received Citation Laureate awards.

Professor Parker said the award recognised the team effort of the Black Dog Institute's researchers that have contributed to such a noteworthy success.

"The Black Dog Institute has a team of active, productive and innovative researchers, with their achievements quantified across a wide range of performance indicators and establishing quite distinctive credentials," he said.

The importance of the award is further underlined by the fact that it is based on an audit of Australian research over the past 20 years.

The Black Dog Institute was established only two years ago and builds on the work of the Mood Disorders Unit which was established in 1985.

Backed by the NSW Government, the Institute undertakes research, treatment, education and diagnosis of mood disorders - a problem which is impacting a growing number of Australians.

The World Health Organisation has recognised depression as one of the world's biggest health problems – exceeding concerns of alcohol abuse and heart disease – with up to 20 percent of the population developing clinical depression over their lifetime.

Professor Parker is known for stepping back from more orthodox views. His work on developing new models of psychiatric disorders – both depressive conditions and personality disorders – and of causal factors, such as parental and intimate relationships has been widely acclaimed.

This research has provided a more substantial base for research, management and treatment.

For further information please contact Ian Dose at the Black Dog Institute on Mobile: 0419 618 606 or email: ian.dosepr@optusnet.com.au