



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**6 June 2005**

### **SCHOLARSHIP FOR POSTNATAL DEPRESSION RESEARCH**

The 2004 Kinsman Research Scholarship into Postnatal Depression has been awarded to Dr Susan Priest and Associate Professor Marie-Paule Austin.

The scholarship is awarded for a period of two years and carries a prize of \$50,000.

Both Dr Priest and Associate Professor Austin are working with the Black Dog Institute. Dr Priest is a Clinical and Research Psychologist while Associate Professor Austin is a Consultant Psychiatrist and Researcher.

The Prizes and Awards Committee of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists announced the sponsorship for Dr Priest and Associate Professor Austin for 2005 and 2006.

(In 1996, the College was bequeathed the estate of Mr William Ross Kinsman for the establishment of the 'Pat, Toni and Peter Kinsman Postnatal Depression Fund' to support research into postnatal depression in women.)

On behalf of the Black Dog Institute, Dr Priest and Associate Professor Austin thanked the College for the sponsorship.

The research is currently focusing on identifying women during pregnancy with early symptoms or risk factors for perinatal mental health disorders.

The Kinsman funds will be used to follow-up a group of women who were screened during pregnancy for risk status.

They will be contacted one year after the birth of their child to find out how and what services they used during the interval since the screening. This information will then be used in service planning and policy development in relation to perinatal mental health issues.

#### **MEDIA INQUIRIES**

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