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BLACK DOG PSYCHIATRIST WINS ROTARY AWARD

A Black Dog Institute psychiatrist, Professor Philip Mitchell, who is also head of the University of New South Wales School of Psychiatry, has been awarded a major award from Rotary.

Professor Mitchell was one of four people who received Rotary International's Vocational Excellence Award at an event in Bathurst at the weekend. The award recognizes outstanding contributions made by individuals or teams for significant advancement in their field in Australia.

Previous awardees have included Victor Chang, Dame Leonie Kramer and Max Dupain.

The citation notes that Professor Mitchell has been one of the major players in the change in attitude towards those with mental illness, through his commentary in the media and involvement in public education programs.

“Through his work as a researcher, lecturer and government advisor, he has encouraged acceptance of why change was necessary,” said the President of Rotary's Ryde Club, Geoff Brennan. “And at the coal-face, in his work as a practicing psychiatrist, he has helped his patients.”

Professor Mitchell has been involved with Rotary over the past nine years through the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund.

Among the other recipients this year were Nicholas Cowdery, the Director of Public Prosecutions and Board Member of the Black Dog Institute; Dave Ella, a senior education officer who works with the Indigenous community; and Professor Di Yerbury, the previous Vice-Chancellor of Macquarie University.

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