

NEWS RELEASE

BLACK DOG INSTITUTE



Monday, 2 August 2004

WRITING COMPETITION – THE HISTORY OF ‘BLACK DOG’

The Black Dog Institute is holding a writing competition to help uncover the history of the term ‘black dog’ as a description for depression.

We invite you to participate!

A number of people who have first-hand experience of depression have described their depression as a ‘black dog’ – famous among them was Winston Churchill, who used the term ‘black dog’ to describe the crippling depression he suffered throughout his lifetime.

Earlier references to the term ‘black dog’ are found in the archives of eighteenth century English writers, among them Samuel Johnson and James Boswell (the latter himself a depression sufferer).

It is thought that the term has even earlier origins.

Entries are to be in the form of a written essay (of between 1500 and 5000 words) and must address the history of ‘black dog’ as a term used to describe depression.

Prizes will be awarded for the 3 best entry essays:

- 1st place - \$5000
- 2nd place - \$3000
- 3rd place - \$1500

The closing date for receipt of entry essays is 31 January 2005.

Entry essays will be judged by an independent panel and a selection of the best entry essays will be published on the Black Dog Institute’s website.

It is a condition of entry that material submitted will be available for further use by the Black Dog Institute, including for promotional or research purposes.

An Application form and further information can be obtained via the Institute’s website: www.blackdoginstitute.org.au or by telephoning the Institute on (02) 9382 4523.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Contact: Ian Dose, Media Manager at the Black Dog Institute (M) 0419 618 606 or E-mail: ian.dosepr@optusnet.com.au

The Black Dog Institute is a not-for-profit research, educational and clinical body specialising in mood disorders. It is affiliated with the University of New South Wales and attached to the Prince of Wales Hospital. Postal address: The Villa, Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick NSW 2031