ACHS | THE AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL ON HEALTHCARE STANDARDS
Inspiring Excellence in Healthcare

CITATION

Dr Peggy Brown AO

Recipient of the ACHS Medal 2026

Dr Peggy Brown AO is a distinguished psychiatrist and senior health leader with more than 30 years of service and an exceptional record of contribution to mental health, healthcare leadership and patient safety in Australia.

Throughout her career, Dr Brown has held significant leadership positions across Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, including Chief Psychiatrist in all three jurisdictions, Director-General of ACT Health and Chief Executive Officer of the National Mental Health Commission. Through these roles, she has contributed to health system reform, strengthened mental health services and advanced approaches to improving care for individuals, families and communities.

As Director-General of ACT Health from 2010 to 2015, Dr Brown led a workforce of approximately 7,000 staff and managed a budget of $1.4 billion. During a challenging period, she played an instrumental role in stabilising health services and supporting the continued delivery of essential care.

From 2018 to 2021, Dr Brown served as Senior Clinical Advisor to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, providing strategic and clinical advice on the development of the Digital Mental Health Standards. Her contribution supported the development of accreditation standards for the growing number of digital and telehealth mental health services across Australia, helping strengthen the quality and safety of care in an evolving healthcare environment.

Dr Brown's commitment to improving mental health outcomes extended to her appointment as one of three Royal Commissioners to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide from 2021 to 2024. As the only Commissioner with clinical expertise, she brought valuable medical and mental health perspectives to the inquiry and its recommendations addressing high suicide rates among veterans.

She continues to contribute to mental health advocacy, governance and service delivery as Chair of the Mental Health Australia Board, a Board Director of Wellways Australia and Chief Medical Officer at Medilinks, supporting clinical services for veterans.

Dr Brown's exceptional contributions have been recognised through numerous honours, including appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2018 for distinguished service to health and psychiatry. Other accolades include the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' Margaret Tobin Prize and College Citation.

In recognition of her exemplary leadership, professional distinction and sustained commitment to advancing mental health care and improving health outcomes for Australians, Dr Peggy Brown AO is a highly deserving recipient of the ACHS Medal.