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MEDIA RELEASE

ACHS Medal awarded to Adrian Pennington, Queensland

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has today awarded its prestigious ACHS Medal 2018 to Adrian Pennington, the Chief Executive of Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service in Queensland.

In presenting the award, ACHS President Professor Len Notaras, AM said “On behalf of the Board of ACHS I am delighted to present this award to an experienced leader who has actively demonstrated his commitment through improving quality and safety in healthcare,” he said.

“Adrian has almost 40 years’ healthcare experience, and prior to joining Wide Bay he worked in several large hospitals leading turnaround programs, addressing significant quality issues and delivering on key programs to produce minimum waiting times in surgical centres.

“He was previously Chief Executive Officer of the James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and CE of NHS Heart Improvement, where he headed up a national heart disease program for seven years, during which time mortality figures reduced from 130,000 to 68,000 per year. He also led clinical redesign work, including the introduction of clinical microsystems.

“Adrian published “How to avoid a CDiff outbreak in healthcare”, which became a national reference guide for all hospitals in England and helped win the “cleanest hospital of the year award” in 2008.

As Wide Bay Chief Executive he has demonstrated his passion for patient care, his staff and community with WBBHS growing from strength to strength,” Professor Notaras said. During 2013 Wide Bay continued to operate during one of Queensland’s worst floods, resulting in the evacuation of Bundaberg Hospital.

Adrian is a respected leader with a passion for patient care, his staff and the community and is recognised by his peers and colleagues for his dedication to the continuous improvement of healthcare.

He has more than 60 documents published, has presented overseas and has lectured for both Harvard and Stanford universities.

Adrian was awarded the National Healthcare CEO of the year award in March this year, as part of the Australian Healthcare Week Excellence Awards.

The awarding of the ACHS Medal recognises the outstanding contribution from an individual and Adrian Pennington is an example of an individual going the extra mile,” said Professor Notaras.

The ACHS Medal 2018 was announced at the ACHS 2018 Dinner, held in Sydney.

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