

Professor Ian Hickie, AM MD FRANZCP FASSA FAHM FRSN

Co-Director for Health & Policy, Brain & Mind Centre, The University of Sydney & NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow, SYDNEY

Professor Ian Hickie, AM is the Co-Director for Health and Policy at the Brain and Mind Centre, University of Sydney, and a National Health and Medical Research Council (NMRC) Senior Principal Research Fellow.

Between 2012 and 2018, Prof Hickie was an inaugural Commissioner to Australia's National Mental Health Commission, overseeing enhanced accountability for mental health reform and suicide prevention.

Prof Hickie is an internationally-renowned researcher in clinical psychiatry, and a leading voice on mental health issues, with a special interest in youth mental health, and the prevention of, and early intervention in, emerging mood disorders.

In partnership with Prof Patrick McGorry, he was at the forefront of developing the youth mental health service, *Headspace: The National Youth Mental Health Foundation* in Australia.

Moreover, he was also the inaugural CEO of *Beyond Blue – A National Depression Initiative* – where he established important depression awareness, prevention, and early intervention programs.

In his clinical psychiatry research, Prof Hickie focuses on using new technologies to delineate novel causes of depressive disorders, to understand the role that genetic and environmental factors play in depression and mental illness.

Prof Hickie leads a NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for optimising treatments for young people living with emerging mood disorders. He also leads a long-term prospective study of adolescent twins, which involves tracking real-time developmental trajectories of the onset of anxiety and mood, psychotic or substance misuse disorders throughout adolescence and young adulthood.

Passionate about driving evidence-based innovations in mental health care, including new e-healthcare service systems, Prof Hickie has, in partnership with the Inspire Foundation, played a key role in developing the 'Young and Well' Co-operative Research Centre (CRC), for which he serves as Chair of its Scientific Leadership Council. He is working with the CRC to develop and test new e-health interventions to prevent the onset of clinical depression across the lifespan, and on new e-health-based adjuncts to clinical practice.

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