

Australian Medical Association Limited

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Three familiar faces honoured with special President’s Award

Outgoing AMA President Dr Omar Khorshid has recognised Professor Kerry Phelps AM, Dr Chris Moy and Associate Professor Dr Rosanna Capolingua with the special President’s Award for outstanding service to the Australian Medical Association.

Dr Khorshid said the two past AMA Presidents and out-going Vice President had been outstanding leaders during their time in office.

“As AMA President, Professor Phelps played a leading role in resolving the emerging medical indemnity crisis, established an advisory committee on Indigenous health, and was the first AMA President to publicly state the effects of climate change on public health.

“She also served as Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney, and as the Federal Member for Wentworth, taking the seat after the removal of former Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull.

“On arrival in Federal Parliament, she secured Opposition and cross-bench support to amend government legislation to give greater authority to doctors to allow medical evacuation of asylum seekers to Australia from Nauru and Manus Island.”

Dr Khorshid said Dr Chris Moy is often referred to as ‘Australia’s hardest working GP’ for good reason.

“He’s one of the few doctors to do home visits for his elderly or incapacitated patients, as well as to patients in nursing homes, despite inadequate systemic remuneration.

“As Vice President, he has been a fearless and relentless advocate, highlighting the health risks to the community and calling governments to task when needed throughout the pandemic in countless media appearances.

“He has worked with the Commonwealth Department of Health on shaping COVID vaccine policy and vaccine indemnity arrangements and used his Vice Presidency effectively to help secure nearly \$1 billion for increased primary care funding from the new Federal Government.

“I want to personally thank Chris, whose humanity is on display every day in his work. The AMA will truly miss his energy, commitment and sunny personality.”

Dr Khorshid said Associate Professor Capolingua, Chair of the AMA Board and president from 2007 to 2009, was one of the unsung heroes of the AMA and her contribution over the decades had been outstanding.

“In 2021, she agreed to a request to serve as Chair of AMA Ltd, the first former President to do so. During this time, she has overseen an organisational restructure at the AMA and the adoption of a financial strategy that has stabilised AMA Ltd’s finances.

“She has also overseen the relocation of AMA’s Federal Secretariat, and the adoption of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles to assure environmentally sustainable investments.

“All this while continuing to practice as a GP in Western Australia and occasionally writing newspaper columns for The West Australian as well. I want to thank Associate Professor Capolingua for her extraordinary service to the AMA,” Dr Khorshid said.

See attachment for further background on the recipients.

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