



MEDIA RELEASE

Saturday, 2 August 2025

AMA recognises doctor for outstanding work with refugees and vulnerable communities

The AMA has recognised Adjunct Professor Tony Rahman with the AMA's Excellence in Healthcare Award for his deep commitment to helping homeless people, refugees and the vulnerable to access healthcare, and for his leadership in gastroenterology nationally and internationally.

The Brisbane-based senior gastroenterologist was inaugural Chair of the Queensland Gastroenterology Network, which promoted colonoscopy care standards, equity, patient safety and clinical efficiencies. This work has resulted in improved bowel cancer detection for all Queenslanders.

AMA President Dr Danielle McMullen told the AMA25 National Conference that Adjunct Professor Rahman had displayed leadership in his profession of gastroenterology and a deep commitment to help the homeless, remote and marginalised communities, refugees and those experiencing mental health illness to access local public health care.

"Adjunct Professor Rahman is not only a highly-skilled specialist committed to improving patient outcomes, he has also shown a deep conviction to promoting health equity," Dr McMullen said.

"His work has extended beyond his speciality to being a passionate advocate for the poor to get the healthcare they need and deserve.

"Adjunct Professor Rahman's professional skills as a specialist gastroenterologist and his social conscience display the highest ideals and commitment of the medical profession not only in Australia but also at the international level."

Adjunct Professor Rahman said, "It is an absolute honour to be the recipient of this prestigious national award. I am delighted that the AMA recognises and applauds equity of access, especially to vulnerable members of our society.

"I would like to highlight within the complex systems we work, all innovation requires team effort and I accept this on behalf of everyone who has helped facilitate the projects.

"This includes the executive at Queensland Health and The Prince Charles Hospital 'Common Good', who funded pilot studies and have helped facilitate improved access.

"I thank the patients and general practitioners, who have been involved in co-designing processes, for their essential critical, but constructive feedback."

Adjunct Professor Rahman volunteered for work in Tonga where he helped with training for upper gastrointestinal health issues and colonoscopy skills.

He also worked with the Department of Home Affairs on implementing guidelines for managing Hepatitis B and C for onshore and offshore refugees and prisoners.

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