



NOTICE TO MEDIA

Recognising excellence in hepatitis C reporting

19 May 2008 -- Hepatitis Australia is pleased to announce that the Professor Geoff Farrell Award for excellence in reporting on hepatitis C will be run again in 2008. The announcement coincides with National Hepatitis Awareness Week (19 - 26 May, 2008).

The Professor Geoff Farrell Award encourages responsible, accurate and timely reporting on hepatitis C. Approximately 200,000 Australians live with chronic hepatitis C, a virus that has no vaccine. Greater recognition of the extent and impact of hepatitis C is required and the media plays a critical role in sharing knowledge and highlighting the need for prevention, treatment and patient support.

Prizes, including travel to international hepatitis C events, will be awarded to two journalists who excel in investigating topics relating to hepatitis C, either from a patient or a medical perspective. Journalists may enter themselves or be nominated by a colleague or an organisation.

Entry forms with detailed criteria will be available for download from www.hepatitisaustralia.com.au in the week commencing 16 June 2008.

Last year's winners of the inaugural Professor Geoff Farrell Award were:

- Adam Cresswell, Health Editor for *The Australian* newspaper, for two stories focused on the prevalence of the hepatitis C virus and the challenges faced by people living with hepatitis C; and
- Paul Smith, Chief Political Correspondent for GP publication *Australian Doctor*, for his feature article on prison health and the rising incidence of hepatitis C in Australian gaols

Please register your interest either by email: geofffarrellaward@cubep.com.au or by ph: 02 9578 2001, and an entry form will be sent to you.