



Media release

From the Minister for Health

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ROYAL MELBOURNE RECEIVES INNOVATION AWARD

A revolutionary new Melbourne-based computer program reducing drug costs and improving the choice of prescription antibiotics has won a major State health award.

Health Minister Bronwyn Pike congratulated the Royal Melbourne Hospital on their *Innovation in information technology* award at the 2nd Victorian Public Healthcare Awards.

“The RMH has created a web-based system that supports doctors in high-intensity environments to make the best snap decisions and it is leading the world by example,” Ms Pike said.

“Through ingenuity and innovative technology, staff at the RMH’s Victorian Infectious Diseases Service have developed a support system for clinicians prescribing drugs, particularly antibiotics, at the bed-side in ICU.

“The computerised decision support system (CDSS) known as Guidance DS, is targeted at junior medical staff and ward pharmacists to help with drug administration and improved access to information.

“Guidance DS has several functions including an approval system for restricted drugs, an electronic guideline to provide vital information and a microbiology CDSS that assists with antibiotic prescription.”

Ms Pike said the results of the computerised clinical system have been super-impressive, with Royal Melbourne Hospital is now able to better monitor the use of restricted drugs.

“The support system has been of extreme benefit in the hospital with 84 per cent of clinicians finding the system extremely useful,” Ms Pike said.

Guidance DS has also been rewarded for its innovation with a Commonwealth Biotechnology Innovation Fund Grant in 2002 and a Quality award at the Royal Australian College of Physicians Annual Scientific Meeting in 2004.

The awards, judged by 86 experts from the Victorian healthcare industry lead by respected health commentator Dr Norman Swan, have attracted hundreds of entrants and are now the biggest event on the state’s public healthcare calendar.

Ms Pike said the 2006 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards showcased an outstanding array of programs and initiatives highlighting Victoria’s world-class hospital and health system.

“The quality of entrants for this annual award event set the bar at a new level this year, with many deserving entries unable to be recognised, really emphasising the strength of the Victorian public health system,” Ms Pike said.

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