

Triple P Creator recognized for contribution to psychology...

Professor Matt Sanders has been awarded the Australian Psychological Society (APS) Award for Distinguished Contribution to Psychology in Australia.



The award recognizes distinguished contributions by psychologists who have made a significant difference to psychology and the Australian community as a whole.

The nominee's work must meet the mission statement for the Society: namely, "to represent, promote and advance psychology and psychologists within the context of improving community well-being and scientific knowledge."

The award was presented by APS President Amanda Gordon during the APS conference at the Brisbane Convention Centre in September.

Ms Gordon said Professor Sanders, who was a fellow of the Society, had been truly outstanding in the work he had done to enhance community well-being and that he had had a significant influence on practitioners and their clients worldwide.

It is the latest in a long line of accolades for Professor Sanders and the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program which has been developed over more than 25 years of research.

Professor Sanders has received a Distinguished Career Award from the Australian Association for Cognitive Behaviour Therapy, an International Collaborative Prevention Research Award from the Society for Prevention Research in 2004 and was also named 2007 Queenslander of the Year.

The Triple P - Positive Parenting Program has twice won the National Violence Prevention Award from the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Australia.

Professor Sanders said he was delighted to receive the APS Award.

"It is a great honour to be recognised at a national level and by such a prominent society," Professor Sanders said. "Receiving an award of this calibre encourages one to continue striving for excellence."

He said he accepted the award, not only for himself, but on behalf of the many people who have worked tirelessly to develop the program further and to take Triple P overseas, where it had helped many, many families; and for the trainers and practitioners in the field who are using the Positive Parenting Program.

"I believe every one of the agencies who use Triple P throughout the world can take pride in this award", he said. "It is recognition of their work on the frontline, and gives us added confidence in going forward into new countries and in developing the program further."