

Prof Ian Hickie, AM

Co-Investigator, *Australian Genetics of Bipolar Disorder Study* & Co-Director for Health & Policy, Brain & Mind Centre, The University of Sydney, SYDNEY

Professor Ian Hickie, AM is a psychiatrist, prominent mental health campaigner and Co-Investigator for the *Australian Genetics of Bipolar Disorder Study* – a ground-breaking international collaboration exploring the genetic risk factors associated with the illness, and how genes influence one's response to treatment.



A former NHMRC Australia Fellow, Prof Hickie heads up the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Centre as a Co-Director for Health and Policy, and is one of Australia's first National Mental Health Commissioners, working to oversee enhanced accountability for mental health reform in Australia.

Prof Hickie is an internationally renowned researcher in clinical psychiatry and a leading voice on mental health issues, with a special interest in youth mental health, and the prevention of, and early intervention in, emerging mood disorders.

In partnership with Prof Patrick McGorry, he has been at the forefront of developing the youth mental health service *Headspace: The National Youth Mental Health Foundation* in Australia.

Moreover, he was also the inaugural CEO of *Beyondblue: A National Depression Initiative*, where he established important depression awareness, prevention and early intervention programs.

In his clinical psychiatry research, Prof Hickie focuses on using new technologies to delineate novel causes of depressive disorders, to understand the role that genetic and environmental factors play in depression and mental illness.

Prof Hickie leads a NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence for optimising treatments for young people living with emerging mood disorders.

Passionate about driving evidence-based innovations in mental health care, including new e-healthcare service systems, Prof Hickie has, in partnership with the Inspire Foundation, played a key role in developing the *'Young and Well' Cooperative Research Centre (CRC)*, and is Chair of its Scientific Leadership Council. He is working with the CRC to develop and test new e-health interventions to prevent the onset of clinical depression across the lifespan, and on new e-health-based adjuncts to clinical practice.

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For more information, or to coordinate an interview with Prof Ian Hickie, contact Kirsten Bruce or Holly Hamilton from VIVA! Communications on 0401 717 566 / 0434 799 839.