

MEDIA RELEASE
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009

Embargoed – 8.30pm Friday November 20, 2009

**DR BILL GRIGGS AM ASM NAMED 2009
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR**

Eminent trauma specialist, Dr Bill Griggs AM ASM, was last night announced as the 2009 recipient of the prestigious South Australian of the Year Award.

The Award was announced at the Annual Dinner held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre in front of an audience of peers, media and high profile South Australians including former South Australians of the Year, Scott Hicks and Robert Gerard AO.

The award was presented by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR.

Dr Griggs is a passionate South Australian who has dedicated his life to helping others through aeromedical retrievals and trauma research.

“I was born in South Australia and have lived here for the majority of my life. I am extremely proud of all South Australian achievements. In my field as in other fields, we often seem to punch above our weight, it fills me with pride to be a member of the South Australian family.” Dr Bill Griggs AM ASM.

Dr Bill Griggs graduated in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1981. He joined the consultant staff of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and assumed his current position as the Director of Trauma Services in 1995. He has a strong interest in safety and injury prevention and is the founder of the Roads2Survival community road safety program. He is the State Controller (Health and Medical) for disasters within SA Health.

He is perhaps best known for his work in disasters, having been deployed to manage evacuations and victim care for the Bali bombings, the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami and most recently, has headed up the medical team in the Samoan disaster.

Dr Griggs has completed hundreds of aeromedical retrievals within the State and has been instrumental in the establishment of MedSTAR – South Australia’s new retrieval service – where he is the Director of Retrieval Coordination. He has also worked as Ambulance Service Medical officer for SA Ambulance Service since the early 1990s having previously spent 15 years as a volunteer ambulance officer.

Dr Griggs was recently recognised with an Ambulance Service Medal in the 2009 Queens Birthday honours and was made a Member of the Order of Australia Medal in 2003 for service to medicine, particularly in trauma, emergency and intensive care management and education.

In 1989 Dr Griggs invented a surgical instrument and associated medical procedure known as the “Griggs technique” which is now used worldwide to help thousands of patients each year. He has a strong interest in governance and has just completed an MBA at the University of Adelaide.

The author of more than 60 publications, he has lectured widely and is an Associate Professor at the University of Adelaide and James Cook University. He is a volunteer Medical Officer with St John Ambulance Australia and a Group Captain with RAAF as well as the current Director of Air Force Health Reserves for South Australia.

Congratulations to Dr Griggs on winning the 2009 South Australian of the Year Award in recognition of his dedication to helping others, unique leadership qualities and his commitment to the State of South Australia.

Advantage SA Chairman, Mr Nigel McBride, said Dr Griggs was a deserved recipient of this prestigious accolade.

“Dr Griggs’s extensive list of achievements is extremely inspiring. He is a humble man that has given back so much to the community and this State as a whole,” Mr McBride said.

“His efforts assisting in international disasters are truly remarkable and his commitment to trauma medicine, aeromedical retrieval and education are unparalleled.

“I would like to sincerely congratulate Dr Griggs on winning the 2009 South Australian of the Year Award.”

All winners of the 2009 South Australian of the Year Awards were selected from both public and peer nominations.

Each year, with the support of the Government of South Australia, the South Australian of the Year Awards recognises inspirational South Australians – The awards celebrate and profile individuals or organisations that have a consistent record of excellence and outstanding achievement whilst contributing and further developing the State.

Other inspirational South Australians awarded in 2009 are:

Young South Australian of the Year – Julian O’Shea

Arts Award – Timothy Sexton

Sport Award – Adelaide United FC

Business Award – Stefan Ahrens

Science – Professor Robert Norman

Community Award – Rosemary Wanganeen

Education Award – Christies Beach High School

Tourism Award – Professor Jane James

Health Award – Professor Robert Norman

Environment Award – Friends of Scaale Bay

Media contact information:

Patrick Anderson

Media and PR Manager

Ph: 8211 8111 M: 0405088284 E- Patrick.anderson@sagreat.com.au