

EMBARGOED – 2.30pm, Tuesday, 18th November 2008

280/2008

Professor paves the way to be named 2008 Telstra Queensland Business Woman of the Year

Professor Paula Barrett, Director of Pathways Health and Research Centre, was today named the 2008 Telstra Queensland Business Woman of the Year at the annual Awards presentation in Brisbane.

Group Managing Director, Telstra Product Management and Telstra Business Women's Awards Ambassador, Ms Holly Kramer, said the judges were impressed by the high calibre of entries in this year's program and named Paula the winner in recognition of her strong leadership skills and achievements in developing a multi-faceted business.

"The judges commended Paula on knowing her business and what drives its success, which make her an outstanding winner and role model for women in business across Queensland," Ms Kramer said.

Paula also won the Yellow™ Business Owner Award which recognises owners with a 50 per cent share or more in a business, with responsibility for key management decision making.

Paula's Queensland-based international consultancy-based clinic was founded in 2003, and provides resilience and life-skills programs to families and school communities. With a focus on coping with anxiety, depression, and stressful situations, Pathways Health and Research Centre's internationally recognised programs provide a range of life-enhancing services for everyone from children to adults. The organisation's program, FRIENDS for Life, has been recognised by the World Health Organization as the best practice for the prevention and treatment of childhood anxiety and depression through the building of emotional resilience.

Also recognised at the 2008 Telstra Queensland Business Women's Awards were:

- **Yellow™ Business Owner Award** (for business owners with a 50 per cent share or more in a business with responsibility for key management decision making);
 - Professor Paula Barrett – Director, Pathways Health and Research Centre, West End;
- **Hudson Private and Corporate Sector Award** (for employees in the private and corporate sector or owners with less than a 50 per cent share of a business);
 - Tory Richards – Chief Executive Officer and Director of Reed Funds Management Limited (RFML), and Director of Reed Property Group Consolidated (RPGC), Maroochydore;
- **IBM Community and Government Award** (for employees in government departments, statutory bodies and not-for-profit organisations);
 - Bronwyn Sheehan – Chief Executive Officer, The Pyjama Foundation, Lutwyche;
- **Nokia Business Innovation Award** (for business owners, private sector employees and entrepreneurs who answered the Innovation questions in the Entry Form);
 - Ivanka Belic – Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Creative Director, Workers Cottage t/a Little Workers, Paddington; and,

Telstra's national media inquiry line is 1300 769 780 and the Telstra Media Centre is located at:

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- **PricewaterhouseCoopers Young Business Women's Award** (for women aged 34 years and under as at Friday 06 June 2008);
 - Olivia Maragna – General Manager, Aspire Retire, Stones Corner.

The Telstra Business Women's Awards have been celebrating the achievements of business women throughout Australia since 1995 and supports successful women from all backgrounds and business sectors.

Award winners from each state and territory will compete for the national award in their category at the National Award Presentation Gala Dinner in Melbourne on Tuesday 9 December 2008. Overall winners from each state and territory will also be in the running for the prestigious title of 2008 Telstra Australian Business Woman of the Year.

Telstra is one of the largest corporate sponsors in Australia, investing in sponsorships that touch Australians from communities right across the country. The London Benchmarking Group evaluated Telstra's contributions to the community at almost \$19 million last financial year.

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For additional information, please visit www.businesswomensawards.telstra.com. To arrange interview or photo opportunities, please contact:

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2008 Telstra Queensland Business Women's Awards winners:

Professor Paula Barrett – Director, Pathways Health and Research Centre, West End;

2008 Telstra Queensland Business Woman of the Year

Winner of the Yellow™ Business Owner Award (for business owners with a 50 per cent share or more in a business with responsibility for key management decision making)

Professor Paula Barrett is Director of Pathways Health and Research Centre, a Queensland-based international consultancy-based clinic founded in 2003, which provides resilience and life-skills programs to families and school communities. With a focus on coping with anxiety, depression, and stressful situations, Pathways Health and Research Centre's internationally recognised programs provide a range of life-enhancing services for everyone from children to adults. The organisation's program, FRIENDS for Life, has been recognised by the World Health Organization as the best practice for the prevention and treatment of childhood anxiety and depression through the building of emotional resilience.

Tory Richards – Chief Executive Officer and Director, Reed Funds Management Limited (RFML) and Director, Reed Property Group Consolidated (RPGC), Maroochydore

Winner of the Hudson Private and Corporate Sector Award (for employees in the private and corporate sector or owners with less than a 50 per cent share of a business)

Tory Richards is Chief Executive Officer and Director, Reed Funds Management Limited (RFML) and Director, Reed Property Group Consolidated (RPGC). Previously an independent consultant, Tory approached RPGC with her business idea of sharing its commercial property investment opportunities with stakeholders. Subsequently, Tory established RMFL in 2004 and Reed Property Trust in 2005, which currently manages a large portfolio of client funds. Tory has also helped to coordinate several development trusts, providing diversified property products to both the public and institutional markets. Most recently, Tory has overseen an international merchant bank's investment in RPGC which has helped to accelerate the company's growth.

Bronwyn Sheehan – Chief Executive Officer, The Pyjama Foundation, Lutwyche

Winner of the IBM Community and Government Award (for employees in government departments, statutory bodies and not-for-profit organisations)

Bronwyn Sheehan is the Chief Executive of The Pyjama Foundation, a Queensland based charity delivering early literacy programs to children in care. Since founding the organisation in her kitchen in 2004, the program has reached more than 500 children throughout Queensland. Bronwyn is currently involved in managing all aspects of the business, from the day-to-day operations to developing future strategic development and expansion. In the past four years, The Pyjama Foundation has expanded regionally to include the Sunshine and Gold Coasts, Toowoomba, South Burnett and Cairns.

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Ivanka Belic – Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Creative Director, Workers Cottage t/a Little Workers, Paddington

Winner of the Nokia Business Innovation Award (for business owners, private sector employees and entrepreneurs who answered the Innovation questions in the Entry Form)

Ivanka Belic is Founder, Chief Executive Officer and Creative Director of Workers Cottage t/a Little Workers, a children's fashion label based in Paddington. Little Workers clothing is Australian-made, and is stocked in more than 20 independent stores as well as being available online via a virtual store and mail order catalogue. Ivanka is one of the first designers to have researched, tested and implemented the innovative new fabric for Little Workers' 'SCRUNCH-ME' range. The newly developed fabric, made from cotton and wire, does not require ironing and is simply scrunched into shape when worn. Little Workers children's fashion is sold both Australia-wide and internationally.

Olivia Maragna – General Manager, Aspire Retire, Stones Corner

Winner of the PricewaterhouseCoopers Young Business Women's Award (for women aged 34 years and under as at Friday 06 June 2008)

Olivia Maragna is General Manager of Aspire Retire, a financial planning firm which provides holistic financial advice and strategies on a fee for service basis. Having established the company in 2003, Olivia is responsible for the day-to-day operations, new business strategy, staff management and training. Olivia's desire to help others through simple financial education and by delivering outstanding client relations has enabled Aspire Retire to retain 100 per cent of its client base. In 2005 at the age of 28, Olivia was the youngest person to receive Self Managed Superannuation Adviser accreditation along with Certified Financial Planner and Chartered Accountant status.