



ACHS Medal Citation

Prof Bryant Stokes AM - ACHS Medal – 2016
RFD, KSJ, MBBS, Hon DSc (Curtin), Hon DM (WA), FRACS, FRCS

Professor Stokes had a most distinguished career as a neurosurgeon and clinical teacher, establishing an international reputation and attracting trainees globally. During this time he also made major contributions to professional organisations including the AMA, serving as President (WA), and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. As a clinician he upheld high standards and worked to continuously improve patient outcomes.

As Chief Medical Officer (WA) Prof Stokes renewed the focus on safety and quality in healthcare. When Acting Commissioner of Health in 2000, he supported publication of healthcare outcomes and adverse events together with associated learnings and recommendations. He was also a strong supporter of the development of the Clinical Training and Evaluation Centre (CTEC) at the University of WA, one of the earliest high fidelity simulation centres. This enabled health professionals to improve their skills and teamwork in simulated critical events without placing patients at risk, thereby improving their performance when delivering care in real life emergencies.

A further period as Acting Director General of Health for WA (2013-2015) was marked again by a strong focus on quality and safety in healthcare. Monthly reporting of performance indicators directly to the A/DG by health service CEOs and the Chairs of their Governing Councils was implemented. This established reporting with accountability. Any areas of under-performance were quickly noticed and plans for improvement demanded. He made sure that safety and quality were a priority for all health services.

With his commitment to safety and quality he served as Chair of the WA Council on Safety and Quality in Health Care 2002-2009.

His many reports into the delivery of health care have addressed a range of issues and the findings and recommendation from these reports have shaped not just the delivery of health care in WA, but across Australia.

Throughout his career Prof Stokes has lead both by example and by inspiring others to share his vision for a safe and high quality health system. He has a lifetime of outstanding achievement in maintaining a CQI focus in his multiple roles as a clinician, Chief Medical Officer, and Acting Director General of Health. His promotion of quality in health care has been outstanding in all his roles and is exemplified by the many reports he has authored.

27 October 2016