

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW student wins National Youth Ambassador award

A 17-year-old Eastwood boy's plan for students to "speak kindly, think clearly and live vibrantly" has won him a national award.

Ahmet Dalkic, from Epping Boys' High School, is the 2009 Research Australia Youth Ambassador for Health Research.

Ahmet's winning entry in the national schools competition highlighted the importance of self respect in moulding the shape and function of the brain. "I believe there is more to intelligence than knowledge. Everyone has his or her own strengths," he said.

Ahmet said having an open mind encouraged innovation and was a great motivator. Meeting challenges head on encouraged growth in character and an enjoyment for life.

The Chief Executive Officer of Research Australia, Rebecca James, congratulated Ahmet on an insightful essay.

"The Youth Ambassador Program provides an ideal avenue to draw out the astute observations of some of our finest young students and hopefully lead them to careers in medical science," Ms James said.

Ahmet's winning submission on the topic 'What young people can do to nurture their brains to be the best that they can be' has been named the National Youth Ambassador for Health Research.

State winners from all over Australia took part in a special teleconference to develop a consensus statement as the voice of Australian Youth.

The Hon. Mark Butler, Parliamentary Secretary for Health will present Ahmet with his award in Sydney on Friday 16 October. Ahmet will join leading researchers and scientists as part of a mentoring program between career scientists and school students.

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About Research Australia

Research Australia is a national alliance of more than 180 organisations, with a mission to make health and medical research a higher national priority. Find out more at www.researchaustralia.org
The National Youth Ambassador Program is kindly sponsored by The Bio21 Cluster, Brain & Mind Research Institute, Griffith University, The University of Queensland, Medibank Private, QUT Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, The University of Adelaide, University of Technology Sydney and The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

Research Australia National Youth Ambassador for Health Research

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