

## **2018 Australian of the Year State and Territory Recipients**

### **2018 SA Australian of the Year, Professor David David AC**

An accomplished and respected craniofacial surgeon, Professor David David has dedicated his life to working with patients with facial deformities and disfigurements and has helped thousands of children and adults with life-threatening conditions.

### **2018 ACT Australian of the Year, Dion Devow**

By choosing a controversial name for his business, Darkies Design, entrepreneur Dion Devow reclaimed a derogatory term and expressed pride in his Aboriginal heritage. Family, religion and education gave him the confidence to start his design business with a collaborative and inclusive approach.

### **2018 VIC Australian on the Year, Samuel Johnson OAM**

Gold Logie winning actor Samuel Johnson took on the challenge of a lifetime when his beloved big sister Connie challenged him to ride around Australia on a unicycle to raise money for cancer research. He set a world record by travelling 15,465 km.

### **2018 TAS Australian of the Year, Scott Rankin**

Through creativity and thinking outside the box, theatre director Scott Rankin and his organisation BIG hART collaborate with communities across the nation to tell their 'untold' stories in ways that affirm their experiences, define their aspirations and activate change.

### **2018 NT Australian of the Year, Dr Bo Reményi**

Dr Bo Reményi is passionate about the heart, specifically how to reduce the rate of preventable rheumatic heart disease in Australia's Indigenous communities. She believes access to adequate health care is a social justice issue and is determined to make a difference to the communities she serves.

### **2018 NSW Australian of the Year, Professor Michelle Yvonne Simmons**

As one of the world's top scientists, Professor Michelle Yvonne Simmons has pioneered research that could lead to a quantum leap in computing. An evangelist for Australian scientific research and a role model to young scientists, she encourages students to dream big, challenge themselves and to achieve ambitious goals in science.

### **2018 QLD Australian of the Year, Johnathan Thurston**

He is known as the best player in Rugby League, but Johnathan Thurston is also one of the most giving. He lent his voice to the Recognise campaign to acknowledge Indigenous people in the Constitution and helped launch the \$9.5 million NRL Cowboys House, a home for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from remote north Queensland

### **2018 WA Australian of the Year, Dr Tracy Westerman**

Psychologist Dr Tracy Westerman's trailblazing work has shifted the way practitioners and clinicians approach mental health assessments in Indigenous communities. Her focus on a shared language enables individuals from different worlds to communicate more easily across cultural boundaries.