



## **Prof Louise Baur recognised in Queens Birthday Honours List**

Professor Louise Baur has been named in the Queens Birthday Honours List for 2010, in recognition of her outstanding commitment to understanding and tackling the causes and complications of obesity, poor nutrition and physical inactivity in children and young people.

Professor Baur was appointed a Member in the General Division (AM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours for service to medicine, particularly in the field of paediatric obesity as a researcher and academic, and to the community through support for a range of children's charities.

Reflecting on the award, Professor Baur said she was honoured to be recognised and paid tribute to her colleagues who share her passion for finding innovative solutions to childhood obesity issues.

"It is certainly a great thrill to receive such an award," said Prof Baur. "But my contribution has always been as part of a team, and I am privileged to receive this as a representative of these teams, including those at *The Children's Hospital at Westmead*, the *Kids Research Institute* and the *University of Sydney*."

"We have worked hard to produce innovative ways of addressing the needs of children and young people involved in the obesity epidemic. These are families who need our help.

"Childhood obesity requires responses from across our society and we cannot expect individual families to shoulder the whole burden."

As a consultant paediatrician and Director of Weight Management Services at *The Children's Hospital at Westmead*, Professor Baur has been instrumental in establishing a multi-disciplinary weight management service for children and young people, the most extensive service of its kind in Australasia.

Professor Baur is a Professor in the Discipline of Paediatrics & Child Health and in the Sydney School of Public Health, and a Director of the Prevention Research Collaboration, all at the University of Sydney. She is a Director of the Australasian Child & Adolescent Obesity Research Network and Chair of the International Obesity Task Force's (IOTF's) Working Group on Childhood Obesity.

In her role as Group Leader of the Obesity Research Group at the *Kids Research Institute*, Professor Baur is at the forefront of research that looks at the causes and consequences of child and adolescent obesity. Her current research interests include the prevention of childhood obesity, the antecedents of obesity, the metabolic syndrome in childhood, the complications of paediatric overweight and obesity and the effective management of obesity and related disorders in a variety of settings.

She is also the Founding Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Pediatric Obesity*, a member of NSW Health's Health Care Advisory Council and has been a Director of World Vision Australia since 2007.

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As a sought after media commentator, Professor Baur uses her expertise and high profile to ensure that the issue of childhood and adolescent obesity remains on the public health agenda in Australia. She has also been a leading advocate against the marketing of junk food to children.

Professor Baur has published widely in the areas of obesity, childhood nutrition and insulin resistance in such journals as the Lancet, Diabetes, the BMJ, the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, the Journal of Pediatrics and the International Journal of Obesity.

Amongst her other recent awards is the Royal Australasian College of Physicians John Sands Medal for an outstanding contribution to the College in 2007 and the 2009 NSW Public Health Impact Award.

*The Children's Hospital at Westmead and Kids Research Institute* congratulate Professor Louise Baur on this prestigious and well deserved honour.

*Kids Research Institute is the research arm of The Children's Hospital at Westmead, the largest paediatric centre in NSW, providing the most advanced care and treatment options for children from NSW, Australia and across the Pacific Rim.*

*Established in 1880, The Children's Hospital at Westmead is a stand-alone public Hospital and registered charity with 3,000 staff working in 150 departments. Over 60,000 sick children and their families are cared for each year in a family-focused, healing environment.*

*Funded by the NSW Government, The Children's Hospital at Westmead provides significant enhancements to services aided by the generosity of individual and corporate donors. For more information visit [www.chw.edu.au](http://www.chw.edu.au)*