

Australia Day honours for NICTA leaders past and present

Media Release

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NICTA congratulates former CEO Dr David Skellern and current Research Evaluation Committee member Professor Mandyam Veerambudi Srinivasan on their inclusion in the prestigious Australia Day Honours lists.

Dr Skellern was awarded the Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his distinguished service to science and engineering as a leading researcher and for the design and development of worldleading information technology. Dr Skellern also made an outstanding contribution to NICTA during his five years as CEO and was tireless in his efforts to raise the profile and importance of ICT to the Australian economy.

The presence of Dr Skellern and Professor Srinivasan on the Australia Day Honours list is no surprise they are both outstanding individuals who have advanced their respective fields of endeavour in important ways, said NICTA CEO Hugh Durrant-Wyde. In his time as CEO, from 2005 until the end of 2010, Dr Skellern built NICTAs reputation and oversaw impressive research and commercial breakthroughs. Professor Srinivasan, as a member of our Research and Evaluation Committee, is helping to ensure that we are always striving to achieve nothing less than excellence in all of our research.

I feel very honoured to be recognised with this high appointment, said Dr Skellern. Ive been lucky throughout my life to work with many talented and dedicated people. I actually cant think of anything I did on my own! So I thank all those amazing people and very much view the award as recognizing what we achieved together. It is also a welcome and pleasing recognition of the important role played by science, engineering and information technology in securing the future prosperity of Australia.

Professor Srinivasan, was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for service to visual and sensory neuroscience through the Queensland Brain Institute, as an academic, researcher and mentor, and to the national and international scientific community.

Professor of Visual and Sensory Neuroscience and Electrical Engineering at the Queensland Brain Institute, Srinivasan said he was thrilled to be appointed a Member of the Order of Australia. I was both surprised and delighted to hear of my appointment! It is always a thrill to be recognised by ones peers and the Order of Australia is particularly special due to its national significance, he said.

The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the achievements and service of their fellow citizens. The Order operates on the principles of independence and freedom from political patronage. Nominations to the General Division of the Order of Australia come directly from the community. In the Australian honours system, appointments to the Order of Australia confer the highest recognition for outstanding achievement and service. There are two divisions of the Order of Australia: the Civil or General Division and the Military Division.