

Awards

There are quite a few awards on this list. There are two main reasons why these awards are important. The first is that it provides an imprimatur, whether it's for our medical research or for our humanitarian work. Or most importantly, I think for the Fathering Project.

Winning the Western Australian of the Year Award is probably the most high profile award. And it's certainly helped us in the Fathering Project to get traction in the community because it does mean a lot to people. The second reason is more personal. That is one doesn't seek these awards just because it's kind of embarrassing because there's always a team of people doing it. So insofar as it can give some affirmation to the team and the work they've done, it's fine, but it is also at the same time a bit embarrassing because I have tended to become the focal point for those awards when really they should be shared. And that does make me feel a bit uncomfortable, but I guess it is true to say that there is a warm feeling when one's peers decide that you're worthy of being nominated for award, and if you then win it.

I think it's the international and national awards provided by peers in a competitive way that does warm my heart. And although I don't live for them and I don't judge my success based on external validation, such as awards, it is nice to receive them.

My final comment is that a few years ago, maybe four or five, I seemed to win a new award every couple of weeks. And it reached its most ridiculous point when a local community newspaper wrote an article when I'd won the College of Physicians Award, "Bruce Wins Another Award." I think that's the time when I thought time to keep my head down and back out of this kind of thing. In any case, it's much nicer now to see other people that I work with winning awards. And that's a genuine comment from my heart.