

HEART & LUNG
TRANSPLANT
FOUNDATION
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Every breath and every heartbeat



MEDIA RELEASE

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HEART & Lung Transplant Foundation WA Founder and Executive Director Yvonne Bali, of Kingsley, was amongst the elite crowd gathered to launch the Australian of the Year Awards 2008 in Sydney recently.

Prime Minister John Howard was on hand to launch the call for nominations, encouraging all Australians to have their say about who should receive this prestigious award.

"The Australian of the Year Awards plays an important part in Australia Day celebrations each year, allowing Australians to recognise citizens who have contributed in outstanding ways to our community," said the Prime Minister.

Yvonne said it was an honour and privilege to be invited to be a part of the 2008 launch.

Yvonne was nominated for the 2007 Metropolitan Hero of the Year Award for the work she does with the Heart & Lung Transplant Foundation WA Inc. She founded the charity in 2004 after years of campaigning to ensure heart and lung transplant patients wouldn't have to endure months away from home like she did when she had a lung transplant. Today the foundation assists and supports transplant patients all over the state.

"The launch was historical, entertaining and moving," Yvonne said. "I felt proud to be an Australian.

"While standing amongst the crowd I was reminded of my donor and that without them I would not be around to experience events like this. I count my blessings every day.

"It was amazing to be nominated as a Metropolitan Hero of the Year 2007. I encourage everyone to nominate someone they admire for an Australian of the Year award."

There are four categories in the Australian of the Year Awards - Australian of the Year, Senior Australian of the Year, Young Australian of the Year and Australia's Local Hero.

You can nominate a great Australian online now at www.australianoftheyear.gov.au or pick up a nomination form at your local Commonwealth Bank branch or call 1300 655 193 for more information. Nominations close on Friday 31 August 2007.

The 2007 Metropolitan Hero of the Year and Young Person of the Year will be visiting WA this month.

For media enquiries contact Heart & Lung Transplant Foundation WA Communications Coordinator Kim Ball on 0433 191 333.