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Media Release

Quiet achiever wins Premier's Award for Outstanding Service

Mrs Joan Webber, President of The Wesley Hospital Auxiliary, was recently honoured with a Premier's Award for Queensland Seniors, for her 41 years of outstanding voluntary service to the community.

Mrs Webber's introduction to volunteering began in 1965 and since then she has been instrumental in raising funds at The Wesley Hospital to fund infrastructure and to acquire vital medical equipment.

The Wesley Hospital Auxiliary has also donated a car and equipment to The Wesley Research Institute and funded a medical research scholarship and medical research projects.

Professor Julie Campbell AO, Director of The Wesley Research Institute, said Mrs Webber's dedication and commitment has made an enormous difference to the lives of thousands of Queenslanders.

'The Institute would not be where it is today without the support of people like Joan Webber. Her passion and generosity to help others is nothing short of remarkable and ranks her squarely as one of Queensland's quiet achievers', Professor Campbell said.

One of Mrs Webber's main roles is managing The Wesley Hospital Auxiliary's campus coffee shop, which caters to staff, patients and visitors. Mrs Webber manages the shop's four full-time employees, purchases its weekly supplies and works behind the counter one day per week.

Like many people who volunteer, Mrs Webber is very humble about her unselfish attitude and achievements.

'I am so pleased that through my volunteering I have been able to give back to the community and help others in their time of need', Mrs Webber said.

According to Stirling Hinchliffe, Parliamentary Secretary to Seniors Minister Warren Pitt, Queensland seniors and volunteers contribution in 2004 was valued at more than \$16 billion and the work equivalent of 387,000 full-time jobs.

Since their inception 21 years ago, The Premier's Awards for Queensland Seniors have honoured 408 Queenslanders.

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