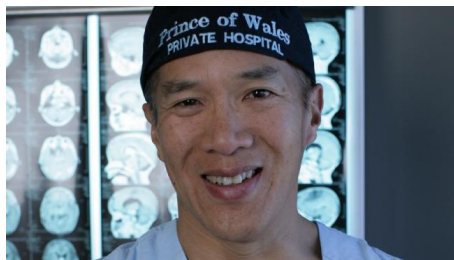


THE AUSTRALIAN

Australian of Year: dedicated surgeon Charlie Teo a pioneer



Neurosurgeon Charlie Teo.

EMILY RITCHIE THE AUSTRALIAN 12:00AM January 4, 2017

The Australian's Australian of the Year award celebrates the nation's top achievers. Here is one nominee for 2016.

Charlie Teo, the controversial and charismatic brain surgeon from Sydney, has spent the past few decades performing radical surgery on tumours that other neurosurgeons consider inoperable.

Dr Teo's approach has been criticised by many in the profession, who argue he is a "cowboy" who offers "false hope" to dying patients, and many doctors refuse to refer their patients to him.

Despite this reputation, Dr Teo has extended the lives of many children and adults with brain tumours and continues to be one of our nation's most highly regarded brain surgeons.

Dr Teo is also a passionate philanthropist and devotes three months a year to educating neurosurgeons from developing countries such as Peru, Indonesia and Vietnam as well as treating children with neurological conditions in those countries.

It is for his dedication to work and charity that Dr Teo has been nominated in *The Australian's* Australian of the Year contest.

Dr Teo was born in Sydney and was educated at the Scots College before going on to study medicine at the University of NSW. He initially pursued a career in pediatric surgery, then neurosurgery and finally specialised in pediatric neurosurgery. He practised for 10 years in the US, and since returning to Australia has continued to develop pioneering procedures through his work at the Prince of Wales Private Hospital in Sydney and his own Centre for Minimally Invasive Neurosurgery. He is often invited back to the US to teach courses in his particular keyhole approach to neurosurgery.

In 2007, he was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship for his contribution to International Health and Welfare and in 2008 the Humanitarian Service Award by Rotary International.

Last year, Dr Teo spoke out about bullying and harassment in the medical profession and supported Nick Xenophon's call for an inquiry into the industry.

Readers are welcome to nominate their choices for 2016. You can submit your nomination for the 2016 award via the form here: www.theaustralian.com.au/news/australians-australian-of-the-year

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