



# 2008 LIFE AWARDS

IN RECOGNITION OF THOSE WHO HAVE MADE AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO SUICIDE PREVENTION WITHIN AUSTRALIA

Sonya was Head of Specialist Factual at the ABC between 2004 and 2006, commissioning programs on Science, Religion and Ethics and Indigenous subjects.

As an independent film maker, she has written, directed and produced many hours of television documentary, winning prizes that include the Grand Prix, Beijing International Science Film Festival and the Eureka Prize for Science Journalism on two occasions.

This award recognises Sonya's work on the documentary *Angels and Demons*, a co-production of ABC TV1 and 'Zapruder's Other Films', which was presented by Andrew Denton, and broadcast in April 2008.

Sonya developed the concept of the program, and her role extended to writer, director and supervising producer.

The program shows various individuals dealing with a range of mental health conditions including schizophrenia, manic depression, bi-polar disorder; suicide ideation and self harm.

In one memorable sequence, Andrew Denton wears an earpiece through which recordings are played to simulate the 'inner voices' experienced with some people who have mental illness.

In illuminating the fears and struggles of its protagonists, while showing them as very real people, the program de-stigmatises, humanises and illuminates a range of mental health conditions for its audience. [END]