# Video Transcript: 2024-25 Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research Dr Asha Bonney

## Dr Asha Bonney

I’m Asha Bonney. I am a respiratory and sleep physician at the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Eastern Health. I completed my PhD in the field of lung cancer screening in the Department of Medicine through the University of Melbourne, and my current research project is at the Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Text: 2024-25 Premier’s Awards for Health and Medical Research. Celebrating the achievements of Victoria’s early career health and medical researchers. Dr Asha Bonney. Health Services Researcher Award. Victoria State Government. 30th Anniversary. Supported by ASMR, Australian Society for Medical Research.

Text: Why did you become a health or medical researcher?

## Dr Asha Bonney

I’m a clinician and a researcher, and so what initially motivated me and inspired me were my patients, and that’s still what motivates and inspires me.

Vision: View of The Royal Melbourne Hospital entrance. View of Asha walking through the hospital.

## Dr Asha Bonney

I think there are lots of gaps in medicine in our knowledge, and there’s areas for improvement in our systems, and so my clinical and research journey really focuses on providing the best care possible currently available for my patients, but also hopefully looking to advance that care as well.

Text: Please introduce your nominated research project. What problem is it addressing?

## Dr Asha Bonney

So my project is called Preparations for the National Lung Cancer Screening Program, developing comprehensive referral pathways for lung nodules and additional findings in Melbourne’s north-west.

Vision: View of Asha working at the computer.

## Dr Asha Bonney

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in Australia and globally, and a significant contributor to the poor outcomes of lung cancer is when it’s diagnosed.

Vision: View of Asha talking with another member of staff and walking together through the corridors of the hospital.

## Dr Asha Bonney

Recently there have been studies that have shown that lung cancer screening with computer tomography, or CT scan, can actually save lives from lung cancer by detecting it an earlier stage in people who are at higher risk for lung cancer with a history of active tobacco smoking.

And, so my PhD really focused on evaluating lung cancer screening with CT, evaluating the evidence as well as potential harm from screening and additional benefits.

Text: What have been the project’s results?

Vision: View of Asha and another colleague walking through the corridors of the hospital and then talking in an office.

## Dr Asha Bonney

So, we started this project at the end of last year, so we have commenced and co-designed our program with our primary care colleagues, and we’ve done the first of two educational series, and we’ve had some positive feedback in terms of demonstrating improvement and increase in confidence and awareness with the National Lung Cancer Screening Program.

Text: How could this project make a difference to people’s lives?

Vision: View of Asha and another colleague looking at results of a CT scan.

## Dr Asha Bonney

Lung cancer screening has already been shown to save lives and prevent deaths from lung cancer. And, so this program really aims to improve uptake, enrolment and participation in lung cancer screening, and provide the best care that we can for patients who are going through that pathway.

It really is a practical project and we anticipate that there’ll be a lot of benefits for patients from the outset.

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