Social advocate wins state award

TIM DORNIN

Social justice advocate and former Supreme Court judge Robyn Layton has been named Australian of the Year for South Australia, 2012.

The 66-year-old has fought for the rights of the disadvantaged throughout her working life and is now co-chair of Reconciliation South Australia and adjunct professor at the University of South Australia's law school.

Ms Layton has worked hard for child protection, both during the Child Protection Review and, since 2005, as chair of the advisory committee for the Australian Centre for Child Protection at the University of SA.

She is patron of the Migrant Resource Centre and International Women's Day Committee, and is a member of the National Advisory Group of the National Children's and Youth Law Centre. She was presented with her award by SA Governor Kevin Scrase at Adelaide Oval last night.

In other awards, paediatric orthopaedic surgeon Bruce Foster was named the state's Senior Australian of the Year and 24-year-old anthropologist Rebecca Richards its Young Australian of the Year. For the past 30 years, Dr Foster has devoted his medical career to understanding the structure and function of bone growth.

He and his team developed new treatment strategies for bone deformities in children.

Ms Richards is the first Aboriginal Rhodes scholar and is committed to conserving her heritage and helping young people.

Dr Leon Earle is SA's Local Hero 2012 for his work which resulted in the establishment of the Men's Shed network.