

9 October 2018

## **Finalists announced in national community sector awards**

Australia's most outstanding community sector organisations and individuals have been recognised, with 11 finalists announced in the 2018 HESTA Community Sector Awards.

The Awards shine a spotlight on exceptional service provision, advocacy, innovation and leadership in social justice and community services in Australia, across the categories of Unsung Hero, Outstanding Organisation, and Social Impact.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey said this year's finalists were selected from an outstanding field of nominations for their leadership in developing community programs and initiatives that address social inequality and disadvantage.

"Each year through the HESTA awards it's an honour to be able to showcase the amazing work of community organisations and individuals whose services significantly improve the lives of others," Ms Blakey said.

"By advocating for social change and giving a voice to those who otherwise may not be heard, this important work has a lasting impact across Australia. We're proud to acknowledge the amazing contribution of this year's finalists and help provide the recognition they deserve."

### **The 2018 finalists are:**

#### **Unsung Hero Award**

**Noelene Jorgensen**  
**One Tree Community Services**  
**Laverton, WA**

Noelene is recognised for helping women and children experiencing family and domestic violence by connecting them with local community services and educating and empowering women by running community support programs.

**Sue Miers**  
**National Organisation for Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders**  
**Normansville, SA**

Sue is recognised for her voluntary work supporting families struggling to manage and understand Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and for her tireless efforts in increasing awareness and prevention of the disability.

#### **Outstanding Organisation Award**

**Home-Start National Inc**  
**Home-Start Volunteer Home Visiting Program**  
**New Lambton, NSW**

Recognised for their Volunteer Home Visiting Program for families with children aged up to five years who are experiencing difficulties in their home environment. Volunteers assist families whose children are at risk of poor life outcomes due to a variety of psycho/social stressors.

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**VisAbility (ROAM Project Team)  
Victoria Park, WA**

VisAbility's ROAM Project Team is recognised for using the latest technology to provide real-time orientation and mobility services via video link to people who are blind or vision impaired and living in regional areas.

**Women's Property Initiatives  
Melbourne, VIC**

The community housing organisation is recognised for changing the futures of women facing homelessness by providing permanent and affordable homes, access to support networks and ongoing advocacy.

**Youth Involvement Council  
South Hedland, WA**

Recognised for their range of youth programs focused on improving education and life skill pathways and services for young people who are experiencing or vulnerable to homelessness.

**Social Impact Award**

**Anglicare Victoria Rapid Response  
Collingwood, VIC**

Recognised for delivering evidence-based early intervention programs that keep families together and kids safe when they would otherwise be placed in out-of-home care.

**Anglicare WA  
West Perth, WA**

Recognised as a leading not-for-profit organisation committed to helping people and families across Western Australia rise above tough times through 86 services in 44 locations.

**End Rape on Campus Australia  
Sydney, NSW**

Recognised for advocating to end sexual violence at universities and residential colleges by providing direct support to survivors and their advocates, promoting prevention through education, and policy reform at the campus and at state and federal Government levels.

**Jesuit Social Services  
Richmond, VIC**

Recognised for their over 40 years of strong advocacy for marginalised groups, particularly young people and adults involved in the justice system.

The winner of each award category will share in a \$30,000 prize pool, courtesy of proud awards sponsor ME – the bank for you.

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The winners will be announced at the 2018 HESTA Community Sector Awards on Monday 29 October 2018 in Sydney.

For further information and photos from the event please visit: [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

Ends.

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