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## Technology-savvy Queensland organisation wins aged care award

A Queensland-based aged care provider using a range of telecommunication techniques to provide telemedicine, medical education and distance health education has won the Outstanding Organisation Award at the 2014 HESTA Aged Care Awards.

Feros Care won the award for its innovative role in pioneering the delivery of smart and virtual technologies to improve the lives of older people in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

Chief Executive Officer, Jennene Buckley, said the organisation supports seniors through the use of telehealth and smart technologies, including group and individual video calls, online referral services, senior-friendly personal computers/tablets and 'smart home' safety installations.

"Our service uses telehealth technologies to monitor hundreds of clients with chronic diseases in their homes," Ms Buckley said.

"We've facilitated more than 5,000 video-conferencing sessions, from one-on-one interactions between a client and a GP, to multi-party sessions such as online bingo, group chat clubs and healthy literacy classes."

The organisation has also rolled out more than 1,200 'smart home' installations into clients' homes to reduce the risk of falls and support clients living with dementia or receiving palliative care treatment.

HESTA CEO, Anne-Marie Corboy presented Ms Buckley with her award during a dinner in Melbourne on 5 August 2014.

"We are delighted to acknowledge Feros Care for its innovative use of modern telecommunications to connect older people with friends, family and health services, and for allowing them to live independently for as long as possible," Ms Corboy said.

Feros Care received a \$10,000 development grant, courtesy of long-term HESTA awards supporter, ME Bank.

"This prize money will help us produce a video to showcase our work, so we can share our knowledge with other organisations across the aged care sector," Ms Buckley said.

The Team Innovation Award winner — the Re3 Wellness Program from Ageing Wisely in WA — also received a \$10,000 development grant for developing an innovative wellness program to help older people maintain their health.

The Individual Distinction Award winner, Graham Custance of Care Connect in Victoria, received a \$5,000 ME Bank *EveryDay* Transaction Account and \$5,000 towards further education — for improving access to services in Aboriginal communities.

HESTA is the leading super fund for health and community services, with more than 785,000 members and \$28 billion in assets. More people in health and community services choose HESTA for their super.

To learn more about the awards 2014 winners visit [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

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