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RDNS Telehealth team a finalist in national aged care awards

A Victorian district health team using video conferencing and monitoring technologies to help clients properly manage their medication and deliver in-home care is a finalist in the 2014 HESTA Aged Care Awards.

The Telehealth team — based at Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) — is one of five finalists in the Team Innovation Award category.

The team has been recognised for delivering remote care to clients that enables them to manage their medication while continuing to live independently in their own home.

RDNS Project Manager and Team Lead, Mathew Tyler, said the small, specialised team has completed two successful Telehealth trials involving more than 260 clients in metropolitan, rural and remote areas of Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

“The organisation’s nurses drive 10 million kilometres per year, which is the equivalent of 12 return trips to the moon,” Mr Tyler said.

“The Telehealth service allows a client at home to upload their personal medical data and have it checked by a nurse at the RDNS control centre which could be hundreds, or even thousands, of kilometres away.

Video conferencing also delivers face-to-face services remotely, over a broadband link into the client’s home.

Mr Tyler said many clients were embracing the use of the new technology and were proud to be leading change in the delivery of healthcare services.

“Research conducted by La Trobe University after the first trial found more than 80 per cent of clients agreed video conferencing helped them to accurately and confidently manage their medicines while living independently in their own home,” Mr Tyler said.

“Clients also reported that video conferencing was useful for prompting them to take their medication and found it more convenient than daily visits — as well as being enjoyable to use.”

Mr Tyler and the other awards finalists will attend the awards dinner in Melbourne, where the winners will be announced on Tuesday 5 August 2014.

A \$30,000 prize pool will be shared among the winners, generously provided by long-term HESTA awards supporter ME Bank. The Team Innovation and Outstanding Organisation Award winners will each receive a \$10,000 development grant, while the Individual Distinction Award winner will receive a \$5,000 ME Bank *EveryDay* Transaction Account and \$5,000 towards further education.

HESTA is the leading super fund for health and community services, with more than 770,000 members and \$27 billion in assets. More people in health and community services choose HESTA for their super.

Visit hestaawards.com.au for tickets to the awards dinner or to learn more about the awards.

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