

## MEDIA RELEASE

4 August 2015

### Unique Colac respite and end-of-life care facility recognised

A community hospice in regional Victoria has been recognised for providing personalised care within a unique, “home-like” environment, enabling local families to remain close to their loved ones.

Anam Cara House in Colac is “A Place Like Home” and was established by the community to meet a critical need in the region, providing respite, palliative and end-of-life care for people with a long-term or life-limiting illness.

Anam Cara House is one of five finalists in the Outstanding Organisation category of the 2015 HESTA Aged Care Awards. The Awards recognise those who make an exceptional contribution to improving the quality of life of older Australians.

Anam Cara House Nurse Manager, Karen Eccles, said the hospice is a purpose-built home that provides quality physical care, as well as emotional and spiritual support for guests and their families.

“Providing this type of care in the local region means people do not have to travel outside of their own community to get much needed support and respite.” she said.

“Anam Cara House provides carers with valuable ‘time out’ so they can attend medical appointments, family events or simply take a break. This greatly assists the carer to continue caring for their loved one at home for as long as possible.

“When home-care is no longer possible, we provide palliative and end-of-life care in a very home-like environment.”

Mrs Eccles said Anam Cara House is the only respite facility of its kind operating in the region and there is considerable demand for its services.

“Over the past 12 months, we have supported guests and their families under various circumstances; including 370 attendances at our day respite program and 110 admissions for overnight care within our hospice.

“The local community is involved, with almost 30 volunteers trained to Palliative Care Victoria standards, as well as volunteers who care for our extensive grounds and assist with maintenance.”

Finalists are in the running for a share of the \$30,000 prize pool provided by proud sponsor, industry super funds’ owned bank, **ME**.

The Team Innovation and Outstanding Organisation Award winners each receive a \$10,000 development grant. The Individual Distinction Award winner will receive a \$5,000 **ME EveryDay** transaction account and \$5,000 towards further education.

**ME** CEO, Jamie McPhee, said, “we’re delighted to give these outstanding individuals, the opportunity to develop and continue to progress their profession, and support innovative health programs that ultimately benefit the entire industry and community.”

The winners will be revealed at the HESTA Aged Care Awards dinner on Thursday 27 August in Canberra.

Learn more about the Awards at [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

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*The 2015 HESTA Aged Care Awards is an initiative of HESTA, run in partnership with the National Aged Care Alliance and proudly sponsored by **ME**.*