HESTA
Aged Care Awards

MEDIA RELEASE

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Clifton Hill events maestro wins national aged care award

An aged care hostel manager, who staged a series of large-scale musical events for more than 6,000 residents from 20 care homes throughout Melbourne, has won the Individual Distinction category at the 2015 HESTA Aged Care Awards.

Paul Brophy — of the Brotherhood of St Laurence's, Sambell Lodge in Clifton Hill — has staged 19 events since 2006, giving residents the opportunity to reminisce, and enjoy music, singing and dancing.

Mr Brophy said many residents come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have little family contact, so he began staging events to make them feel less isolated.

"The first event we held was the 'Senior Olympics' and we had 300 people attend from seven local care facilities. Among them were Aboriginal elders and Italian-born seniors. Everyone got into the spirit of the event and any language or cultural barriers seemed to just melt away," Mr Brophy said.

"Since then, we've held a further 18 events, with the most recent a 'winter wonderland' concert featuring a 27-piece retired big band, playing musical favourites from days gone by.

"Now, we stage two events each year for residents from 20 care homes, who practice singing and plan their outfits for months—they say don't get emotional involved, but you do", said My Brophy.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey, presented Mr Brophy with his Award at the annual HESTA Aged Care Awards dinner in Canberra on 27 August 2015.

"We are pleased to recognise Mr Brophy for finding innovative ways to ensure older people continue to have the opportunity to socialise," Ms Blakey said.

Mr Brophy received a $5,000 **ME** *EveryDay* transaction account and $5,000 education grant, courtesy of proud Awards sponsor, industry super funds' owned bank, **ME**.

Accepting his Award, Mr Brophy said he hopes to use some of his prize money to fund a scholarship to help a disadvantaged student complete secondary school.

The Team Innovation Award winner — 'A Safe Place to Call Home' program team at Catholic HealthCare's Charles O'Neill Hostel in Newcastle — and the Outstanding Organisation Award winner, Southern Cross Care Victoria, each received a $10,000 development grant, also courtesy of **ME**.

Learn more about the awards at **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**.*