



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Victorian aged care employment program wins national aged care award

A Victorian aged care organisation's employee development program has won the Outstanding Organisation Award at the 2015 HESTA Aged Care Awards.

The Employee Development and Empowerment Program — developed by Southern Cross Care Victoria — was recognised for its ability to attract and retain a high-quality and predominantly female workforce, many of whom are from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Southern Cross Care CEO, Jan Horsnell, said the program includes almost 20 initiatives, designed to empower its 89 per cent female workforce across metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

"Our organisation has partnered with a number of tertiary training facilities to provide formal education opportunities to our staff in aged care, leadership, pastoral care and computer literacy," she said.

"The program provides education scholarships, with 48 staff graduating with a Certificate or Diploma in Aged Care in 2015 and a further 19 staff attending accredited leadership programs.

"We have also actively promoted a Women's Health Program provided by the Centre for Multicultural Women's Health so staff can receive vital health information in one hour sessions over an eight-week period during paid time—this is in addition to a money-minded program to increase financial literacy among staff."

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey, presented Ms Horsnell with the award at the annual HESTA Aged Care Awards dinner in Canberra on 27 August 2015.

"We are delighted to recognise Southern Cross Care Victoria for its innovative approach to staff development that ensures residents of its aged care facilities and home care services receive the best possible care and support," Ms Blakey said.

Southern Cross Care Victoria received a \$10,000 development grant, courtesy of proud awards sponsor, industry super funds' owned bank, **ME**.

Accepting the award, Ms Horsnell said the grant would facilitate tailored leadership development for staff from CALD backgrounds.

The Team Innovation Award winner, 'A Safe Place to Call Home' program team from Catholic Healthcare's Charles O'Neill Hostel in Newcastle also received a \$10,000 development grant. The Individual Distinction Award winner — Paul Brophy from the Brotherhood of St Laurence — received a \$5,000 **ME EveryDay** transaction account and \$5,000 education grant, also courtesy of **ME**.

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**.*