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Redfern Legal Centre a finalist in national community sector awards

Redfern Legal Centre has been named one of five finalists in the Social Impact category of the 2013 HESTA Community Sector Awards.

The Centre was recognised for improving access to justice for tens of thousands of disadvantaged people, including people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, migrants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The Social Impact Award recognises an individual, organisation or network that has made an outstanding contribution to social justice in Australia, through policy development, advocacy, leadership or representation.

Redfern Legal Centre CEO, Joanna Shulman, said the Centre had worked over more than three decades to improve the lives of disadvantaged people in the Redfern area.

“Redfern Legal Centre was the first community legal centre in New South Wales and one of the first in Australia,” she said.

“Since 1977, the Centre has assisted some of the most vulnerable members of our community to access justice and assert their legal rights.

“The Centre has also taken an active role in law reform, speaking out about where change is needed to prevent injustice, and providing support to other welfare and community organisations.”

The judges commended Redfern Legal Centre for its ongoing commitment to providing high-quality legal services to vulnerable people, and its work in advocating for changes to the law and mainstream professional services.

Ms Shulman and the other finalists will be flown to Adelaide to attend an awards dinner, where the winners will be announced during the Australian Council of Social Service National Conference on Monday, 25 March 2013.

A \$30,000 prize pool will be shared among the winners, courtesy of long-term HESTA awards sponsor, ME Bank. The Social Impact and Organisation Award winners will each receive a \$10,000 development grant. The Unsung Hero Award winner will receive a \$5,000 ME Bank *EveryDay* Transaction Account and a \$5,000 education grant.

HESTA is the leading super fund for health and community services, with more than 750,000 members and \$21 billion in assets. More people in health and community services choose HESTA for their super.

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

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