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## **Sydney anti-slavery campaigner a finalist in national community sector awards**

The founder of Australia's only safe house for people who have experienced human trafficking and slavery is one of five finalists in the Unsung Hero category of the 2014 HESTA Community Sector Awards.

Jenny Stanger set up the Sydney Safe House in 2007. The Safe House forms part of a Salvation Army program designed to help people who've experienced slavery-like conditions in domestic work, hospitality, retail, agriculture, construction, sex services or who are forced into slave-like marriages.

The Safe House has supported more than 300 people via residential care, outreach, prevention, case management and international assistance to prospective migrants and family members in the clients' countries of origin.

"Ours is the only service of its kind in Australia and provides unique support to those with complex needs" Ms Stanger said.

"Many people do not realise that human trafficking and slavery are crimes in Australia. We are trying to increase victim identification by training frontline personnel and raising awareness.

"We don't receive government funding and are reliant on The Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal, grants, fundraising and donations to provide supported accommodation, financial assistance and complex case management to people who've experienced human trafficking and slavery. In this way, the Safe House is truly a community-owned service.

"My role has been to ensure safety and support for individuals enslaved here, and to represent them in their fight for social justice to the broader community and to the Australian Government."

In 2005, Ms Stanger co-founded the 'Anti-Slavery Project' in conjunction with the University of Technology Sydney Faculty of Law. A key aim of the project is to provide free and comprehensive legal advice to people who experience human trafficking and slavery here in Australia.

The awards judges praised Ms Stanger's work to support some of the most vulnerable people in Australia.

Ms Stanger and the other interstate finalists will be flown to Brisbane to attend the awards dinner, where the winners will be announced during the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) National Conference on Wednesday 11 June 2014.

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

The HESTA Community Sector Awards are presented in partnership with the Australian Council of

Social Service (ACOSS) the peak body for community services in Australia, as part of their commitment to building a strong, sustainable community sector supporting the needs of people affected by poverty, disadvantage and inequality.

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](https://hestaawards.com.au) for tickets for the awards dinner or to learn more about the awards.

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