

**HESTA Australian Nursing Awards**  
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**Media Release**  
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## **Recognition for SA immigration detention nurse**

A nurse committed to providing high quality care to asylum seeker families housed at the Inverbrackie Alternative Place of Detention has been named a finalist in the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Annette Carr, who gave up a bookshop business to retrain as a nurse, is one of five finalists in the running for Nurse of the Year.

"As a mature age student going into nursing, it was always my intention to work in refugee health and support disadvantaged people," Ms Carr said.

"Inverbrackie has been a wonderful opportunity for me. It's a privilege to nurse there and to try to make people feel safe and healthy again, after what are often quite horrific experiences of oppression and civil war."

Ms Carr qualified as a nurse 10 years ago after six years of part-time study. She studied refugee health and disaster management and was an Australian Refugee Association volunteer before taking the immigration detention role.

"Inverbrackie is in a near-metropolitan area, so we are able to support people with quite high health care needs including disabilities, war injuries and chronic illness that might require presentations to hospital and other services," Ms Carr said.

"The first challenge is to make people feel safe, and that's often about blending the disciplines of primary health care and mental health.

"I have a strong paediatric background after working in emergency at a children's hospital, so I work closely with children in detention, who are obviously a vulnerable group."

Working with up to 400 detainees from four main cultural groups is a constant challenge.

"It gives me a great appreciation of what it means to live in a developed country," Ms Carr said.

"I plan to work with refugees overseas when my children are older. I want to use the education and skills this country has given me to help vulnerable people."

Ms Carr will be flown to Melbourne for the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards gala dinner on 10 May. The winner of the Nurse of the Year award will receive a \$5,000 ME Bank *EveryDay* Transaction Account and a \$5,000 education grant.

The prize money is provided by ME Bank, a supporter of the awards since 2008.

HESTA is one of Australia's largest superannuation funds with more than 730,000 members. It is chosen by more people working in health and community services than any other fund.

Visit [hestaawards.com](http://hestaawards.com) to book tickets for the event or learn more about the awards.

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