

HESTA Australian Nursing Awards
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Media Release
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Bathurst nurse in running for top national award

A young nurse from rural NSW, whose leadership and enthusiasm has enriched the lives of patients and staff, has been named a finalist in the 2012 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Bathurst Base Hospital's Brenden Stapleton is one of five professionals in the running for the national Graduate Nurse of the Year prize. Mr Stapleton was secretly nominated by a colleague.

"There were whispers around the hospital about a nomination but I had no idea it was me until HESTA told me I was a finalist," Mr Stapleton said.

"When I found out, I was overwhelmed with gratitude. Knowing that my colleagues value my contribution is incredibly rewarding."

Mr Stapleton chose to spend his graduate nursing year in his hometown, largely because of his mother, a rural nurse who has since passed away.

"My mother was the reason I became a nurse in the first place. Seeing the difference she made every day to the lives of her patients and peers was truly inspirational," he said.

Nominated for his calm professionalism in emergencies, natural leadership, and non-judgmental approach to patients, Mr Stapleton is passionate about providing high quality support to patients requiring palliative care and their families.

The young nurse will soon begin a master's degree, studying acute and chronic illness, palliative care and pain management. He hopes to develop a pathway program for patients and families going through the palliative care system and one day become a manager.

"To be influential I believe you need to have the right combination of floor-level experience and education and that is my motivation to complete my master's, complete a management course, and continue working on the ground with patients and families," Mr Stapleton said.

Bathurst Health Service Director of Nursing, Glenda Entwistle, congratulated Brenden on making the finals in the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

"This is fantastic news for Brenden and it is well deserved. We wish him the very best in the awards. Brenden is a great example of our high-calibre nursing staff and we are very fortunate to have such an empathetic and skilled nurse," said Ms Entwistle.

Mr Stapleton will be flown to Melbourne for the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards gala dinner on 10 May. The winner of the Graduate Nurse of the Year 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** to book tickets for the event or learn more about the awards.

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