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Tasmanian aged care nurse a finalist in national nursing awards

A graduate nurse, working at Huon Eldercare residential aged care facility in Tasmania, has been named one of five finalists in the Outstanding Graduate category of the 2013 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Louise Davis of Franklin has been recognised as a finalist for her focus on carrying out detailed patient admission assessments and preparing holistic care plans.

The Outstanding Graduate Award recognises a nurse or midwife who has provided exceptional patient care, improved quality care processes and improved their own skills while demonstrating their value as a team member.

Miss Davis was also involved in developing a new checklist for non-clinical carers to ensure vital patients were receiving optimum care that reflected the wishes of residents and their families.

“A colleague and I realised there was a need for the checklist when we noticed that carers talked about the care requirements for residents, but didn’t actually have a tool to document what they were doing or to handover to the next shift,” Miss Davis said.

Since the tool has been implemented there has been an improvement in communication between carers and registered nurses, so carers can handover to the next shift without missing vital information.

The judges commended Miss Davis for providing empathy and support to those most in need, particularly in the area of palliative care.

Miss Davis and the other finalists will be flown to Melbourne to attend an awards dinner, where the winners will be announced on 9 May 2013.

A \$30,000 prize pool will be shared among the winners, courtesy of long-term HESTA awards sponsor, ME Bank. The Nurse of the Year and Outstanding Graduate Award winners will each receive a \$5,000 ME Bank *EveryDay* Transaction Account and a \$5,000 education grant. The Team Innovation Award winner will receive a \$10,000 development grant.

HESTA is the leading super fund for health and community services, with more than 750,000 members and \$22 billion in assets. More people in health and community services choose HESTA for their super.

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

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