



PO Box 615  
Carlton South VIC 3053  
[hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

 @HESTANurseAwdS

**Media release 1 May 2013**

## Western Australian acute care nurse a finalist in nursing awards

A graduate nurse, who worked to improve clinical handover practices at St John of God Murdoch Hospital in Perth, has been named one of five finalists in the Outstanding Graduate category of the 2013 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Melissa Coventry from Perth has been recognised as a finalist for her work analysing the hospital's model of clinical handover on one of its wards and identifying the need for patients to be included in the process.

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.

Melissa works on an acute medical ward that specialises in oncology and cardiology and has a special interest in palliative care.

She developed a quantitative audit tool for implementing bedside handover in nursing — based on an audit of handover practices across 25 rooms in a single ward setting at the hospital. Her initiative aimed to improve services to palliative care patients and included recommendations to implement her findings.

“Clinical handover has always been an area of interest for me. I believe that better patient outcomes are achieved when they are actively involved in the handover of their care,” Melissa said.

Melissa was also the successful recipient of a scholarship provided by the Cancer Council of WA, which has enabled her to undertake a Post Graduate Diploma in Palliative Care at Edith Cowan University.

Judges commended Ms Coventry for her strong advocacy of patient rights, her excellent communication skills, and ability to be self-directed and highly motivated.

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

**MEDIA CONTACT: Luisa Saccotelli 0400 149 901 or Aileen Muldoon 0419 112 503**