



PO Box 615  
Carlton South VIC 3053  
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## **Sydney nurse to the homeless a finalist in national nursing awards**

A Sydney nurse who manages the health issues of the chronically homeless in the inner city has been named one of five finalists in the Nurse of the Year category of the 2013 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Tim Neate — of St Vincent's Hospital Sydney — has been recognised as a finalist for protecting and promoting the dignity of homeless people who have 'fallen through the cracks in the system', and for nursing and advocating on their behalf with skill and compassion.

The Nurse of the Year Award recognises a nurse, midwife, personal care attendant or assistant in nursing who has made an exceptional contribution to improving patient care, delivered health care in challenging circumstances and shown advocacy on behalf of patients or the nursing profession.

Tim Neate was described by his colleagues as having helped the most difficult of clients, even when that involved going out personally to look for people who couldn't be found.

St Vincent's Hospital staff said Mr Neate has been successful in breaking down treatment resistance among his clients, by helping them to understand what was happening to them and what might help them.

He has been recognised for using his medical expertise to care for people who had lost faith in a system that may have failed them, and who feared the conditions that were making them sick and the procedures to treat them.

The judges commended the nomination for helping an under-serviced client group at high risk of infection and assault on the streets.

Mr Neate 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 for the awards dinner or to learn more about the awards.

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