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Media release Monday 28 April 2014

NSW intervention and education program — finalist in nursing awards

An education and support service for acute-care hospital staff, to assist in better management of older people presenting with Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms of Dementia (BPSD), has been named as a finalist in the 2014 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

The Behaviour Assessment Management Service (BAMS) at the Northern Sydney Local Health District, has been recognised as one of five finalists in the Team Innovation category, for improving the care of people with BPSD.

Northern Sydney Local Health District's Specialist Mental Health Service for Older People Program Manager, Julie Strukovski, said the program aims to assist hospital staff in providing person-centred care and improving the management of BPSD.

"People hospitalised due to BPSD respond well to non-pharmacological interventions, (non-pharmacological therapies are ways to decrease pain in addition to medicine), which can be easily implemented within an acute environment. These interventions promote improved outcomes for older consumers, their families and carers," Ms Strukovski said.

"The Specialist Mental Health Service for Older People BAMS program provides education and support to a range of health professionals — including nurses, medical specialists, registrars, occupational therapists, social workers and physiotherapists — improving their understanding and competency in the management of those admitted with BPSD."

"More than 300 health care workers have received education offered by BAMS in the past 12 months."

Ms Strukovski and the other finalists will attend the awards dinner on Thursday 8 May 2014 where the winners will be announced.

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

HESTA is the leading super fund for health and community services, with more than 770,000 members and \$27 billion in assets. More people in health and community services choose HESTA for their super.

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

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