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Perth nurse caring for children with juvenile arthritis finalist in national nursing awards

A Perth nurse — who has spent two decades caring for children with juvenile arthritis — is a finalist in the 2014 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Ms Deborah Tunbridge is the Rheumatology Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Subiaco, WA. She is one of five finalists in the Nurse of the Year category and is recognised for her high level of care for children suffering the life-changing effects of arthritis and lupus.

“Deborah is involved with families whose children have died from lupus. She cares for the children and their families and attends the funerals.” colleague, Charlene Menner said.

“Her knowledge of the children and families means she is also a great assistant to all the rheumatology doctors. The doctors rely heavily on Deborah’s expertise, kindness and compassion and know they can leave a family with a newly diagnosed child in her capable hands.”

Ms Tunbridge also attends and helps organise an annual camp for children with juvenile arthritis.

Along with other interstate finalists, Ms Tunbridge will be flown to Sydney to attend an awards dinner, where the winners will be announced on Thursday 8 May 2014.

A \$30,000 prize pool will be shared among the winners, courtesy of long-term HESTA awards supporter, ME Bank. The Nurse of the Year and the Outstanding Graduate Award winner 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 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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