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## **Graduate nurse from the West — finalist in national nursing awards**

A West Australian enrolled nurse — a motivated graduate who excels in clinical care of complex patients and advocates on their behalf — is a finalist in the 2014 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Tetyana (Tanya) De La Cruz — of St John of God Murdoch Hospital in Perth — is recognised as one of five finalists in the Outstanding Graduate category, for excelling in the clinical care of patients while demonstrating top quality nursing skills and a strong ability to respectfully communicate with patients.

Mrs De La Cruz completed an intensive Enrolled Nursing Diploma in 12 months instead of the usual 18 months. Her determination and commitment enabled her to develop high-level skills on a busy surgical ward. After graduating, Tanya commenced her Bachelor of Nursing degree, a testament to her dedication to ongoing professional development.

Mrs De La Cruz, not only focusses her attention on the surgical procedure being performed and the often complex post-operative care, she also considers her patient's underlying disease and emotional wellbeing.

She has contributed to improving communication on the ward, utilising the clinical handover checklist — iSoBAR — during all patient handovers, ensuring the inclusion of all aspects of patient care. Her work in a spinal neurosurgical ward has also been singled out for commendation.

Mrs De La Cruz was previously recognised with the hospital's 2013 Enrolled Nurse Graduate of the Year Award.

Mrs De La Cruz and the other interstate finalists 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 award supporter, ME Bank. The Outstanding Graduate Award winner and the Nurse of the Year 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](http://hestaawards.com.au) for tickets for the awards dinner or to learn more about the awards.

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