



PO Box 615
Carlton South VIC 3053
hestaawards.com.au

Media release Monday 28 April 2014

Indigenous dialysis service a finalist in national nursing awards

A nurse-led community health service team providing life-saving dialysis to remote Indigenous communities is a finalist in the 2014 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

The Western Desert Dialysis Service — based in Alice Springs — is one of five finalists in the Team Innovation category. The team is recognised for their culturally sensitive service delivery and expanding the dialysis treatment to seven sites across the Northern Territory and Western Australia.

Western Desert Dialysis CEO, Sarah Brown, said the dialysis team live and work in remote communities. They travel to remote Indigenous communities in their instantly-recognisable purple truck, to deliver the service and directly support renal patients.

“The service means Indigenous people with end-stage renal failure, requiring dialysis up to three times a week, can stay in their own communities to receive treatment,” Ms Brown said.

“The service supports people needing dialysis to remain ‘on country’ where there is greater prospect of children accessing education, adults contributing economically and communities staying safe and strong.

“It’s unique because it combines western medicine and Ngangkari bush medicine, keeping cultural priorities front and centre, while also maintaining high clinical standards.”

Ms Brown said the service also provides dialysis for Indigenous people at the organisation’s Purple House facility in Alice Springs.

“The Purple House is a unique service — complete with chooks, fire pit, veggie garden and aquaponics. It’s proven so popular that many patients choose to come to the facility on their non-dialysis days,” she said.

Sarah Brown and the other interstate finalists will be flown to Sydney to attend an awards dinner, where the winners will be revealed 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 Team Innovation Award winner will receive a \$10,000 development grant. 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.

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.

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