

Media Release

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Perth mobile nurse team providing healthcare to the homeless wins national nursing award

A Perth nursing team who provides healthcare to people living on the streets was named the Team Innovation Award winner at the 2015 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards in Brisbane last night.

Street Health by Homeless Healthcare (Mobile GP) has been recognised for its work delivering vital health services to homeless and disadvantaged people at various Perth locations.

Team Leader, Sarah Ravine said many homeless people have drug and alcohol problems and other health needs, but did not like to visit healthcare facilities.

“There are lots of people that find it difficult to get healthcare for many reasons, whether due to an inability to physically access services, or for fear of judgement. Our program brings much needed services to the streets,” Ms Ravine said.

“Our nurses treat homeless people at different locations throughout the city—whether on the streets, in a park or under a makeshift shelter. We see patients regularly, have an awesome relationship with them and they appreciate the service that we give.

“It’s the best nursing job I’ve ever had. You genuinely get to help people.”

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey presented Ms Ravine with the Award at an awards ceremony in Brisbane on 15 October 2015.

“This is the sort of innovation we want to foster through our Awards program. We are pleased to recognise the vital healthcare this team of nurses provides to some of the most disadvantaged members of our society,” Ms Blakey said.

The team received a \$10,000 development grant courtesy of proud Awards sponsor, **ME**.

Ms Ravine said the prize money would help buy vital medical equipment such as specialised dressings and vaccinations. She hopes it may stretch towards the purchase of a much needed portable defibrillator as the service expands.

Other Award winners announced were Narelle Place as the Outstanding Graduate—from Barwon Health, Victoria—and Nurse of the Year, Catrin Dittmar from Lake Macquarie, NSW. Each received a \$5,000 **ME** EveryDay Transaction Account and \$5,000 towards further education, also courtesy of **ME**.

For more information about the awards visit hestaawards.com.au

Follow the Twitter conversation [@HESTANurseAwards](https://twitter.com/HESTANurseAwards)

*The 2015 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards is a HESTA initiative, run in partnership with the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) and proudly sponsored by the bank owned by industry super funds, **ME**.*

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