

HESTA national nursing award finalists announced

Today, HESTA announced 12 outstanding professionals in the fields of nursing and midwifery for the 2016 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

In its tenth year, the annual nursing awards identify and recognise nurses, midwives, personal care attendants, and assistants in nursing who excel in their area of expertise or service provision through three categories — Nurse of the Year, Outstanding Graduate and Team Excellence.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey said that this year saw a high calibre of nominations from across the country, with the finalists epitomising the outstanding standards of care and ongoing commitment provided by nursing professionals.

“It’s always a difficult task for the judges to shortlist finalists from so many worthy applicants, and this year’s finalists represent the best of the best from a diversity of nursing services and practices from around Australia.”

“The finalists are all leaders in their field and their dedication and commitment to patient care is inspiring. It’s a privilege to help give these professionals the acknowledgement they deserve.”

Nurse of the Year Award finalists

Gillian Hermosilla-Silva

Logan City Council, Kingston, QLD

For identifying the need to lift immunisation rates in surrounding local communities and delivering an innovative in-home vaccination program that ensures the timely completion of recommended childhood vaccinations.

Lynette Hernandez

Healthscope — The Sydney Clinic, Bronte, NSW

For providing holistic support and care for patients with mental health and drug, alcohol and gambling issues. The nominating patient said Lynette’s understanding and compassion was vital in helping his rehabilitation.

Angie Monk

Ramsay Health Care — Joondalup Health Campus, Joondalup, WA

For advocacy and leadership in developing an innovative Patient Blood Management Program that improved outcomes and recovery for patients undergoing surgery involving significant blood loss.

Joanne Perks

Liverpool Women’s Health Centre, Liverpool, NSW

For her leading role in developing a partnership with Liverpool Hospital to provide access, screening and healthcare to women on the Addiction Medicine Program. This included the establishment of a pilot outreach clinic that improved the equity of access and health outcomes for women attending the clinic.

Lisa Smith

Apunipima Cape York Health Council, Bungalow, QLD

The fly-in fly-out midwife and child health nurse has delivered outstanding levels of culturally appropriate, comprehensive primary health care to 11 Cape York communities for the past nine years, often in difficult circumstances.

Outstanding Graduate Award finalists

Shelley Cook

Alfred Health, Prahran, Vic

For showing courage and leadership in advocating for patient care and for playing a leading role in developing a staff training project aimed at raising awareness about communication strategies when working with culturally and linguistically diverse patients.

Ashleigh Morriss

St Andrews Ipswich Private Hospital, Ipswich, QLD

For continually providing high standard, holistic patient care, and for showing initiative and leadership in finding ways to improve patient outcomes.

Thembie Ndebele

St Andrews Ipswich Private Hospital, Ipswich, QLD

For taking a pro-active approach to patient care, advocating for her patients' needs and for going above and beyond to help out colleagues and fellow team members on her ward.

Team Excellence Award finalists

Clinical Service Team, integratedliving Australia

Muswellbrook, NSW

For launching an innovative Indigenous meal range into a community meals program that provides culturally appropriate dishes, using native 'wild food' ingredients that promote improved diet and health outcomes.

Intensive Care Unit, Armadale Health Service

Mount Nasura, WA

For developing an organisation-wide program for the provision of organs from organ donors. The program allowed for organ retrieval operations to be conducted on site for the first time and included developing policies, procedures and education for staff that has delivered positive outcomes for the donors' grieving family and friends and the recipients and their families.

Leadership Team, Anglican Retirement Villages — Goodhew Gardens

Taren Point, NSW

For delivering the Extended Breakfast and 24 Hour Menu Food Program after a holistic review of mealtimes informed by advice from external experts, the latest research, and resulting in improved health outcomes for residents.

The Palliative Aged Care Consultancy Team, Calvary Public Hospital — Bruce Clare Holland House Campus

Barton, ACT

For researching, developing and measuring the impact of a new model of proactive palliative care that reduced hospitalisation rates and delivered greater choice to patients and their families.

About the prize pool

HESTA Australian Nursing Awards finalists are in the running for a share of a \$30,000 prize pool, provided by our longstanding Awards supporter **ME**, the bank for you.

Winners will receive \$10,000 in a **ME** EveryDay Transaction account towards further education or team development.

The Team Excellence Award winner will receive a \$10,000 development grant to take their program or initiative to the next level.

ME CEO, Jamie McPhee said, "We're delighted to provide the opportunity for these outstanding individuals to develop their careers, while also supporting innovation that benefits the entire sector and community."

Winners will be announced at the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards dinner in Melbourne on 12 May — International Nurses Day.

For more information visit hestaawards.com.au

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