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Rural physiotherapist a finalist in national primary health awards

A physiotherapist who has advocated for better health services in rural and remote Australia, has been named a finalist in the 2013 HESTA Primary Health Care Awards.

Daniel Mahony, of the Western Australian Country Health Service, has been recognised as one of four finalists in the Young Leader category for his commitment to rural health.

The awards recognise the dedication and professionalism of those working in primary health care, including physiotherapists, dentists, pharmacists, therapists, GPs, rehabilitation professionals, health educators and medical practice managers.

Mr Mahony is a strong advocate for providing sustainable health services that deliver good health outcomes, particularly in rural areas.

He is currently the National Rural Representative on the Australian Physiotherapy Association National Advisory Council, which supports physiotherapists working in rural and remote communities. He is also a Board Member for Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health (SARRAH) — a grassroots organisation committed to advocating for allied health services in rural and remote areas.

Mr Mahony was also recently elected as Co-Chair of Future Health Leaders, an organisation for student and early career health professionals involved in the national health reforms.

Recently, he worked with public health officers to set up new initiatives to address a growing trend of obesity and chronic disease.

Mr Mahony is currently undertaking part-time postgraduate study in Health Services Management, to further improve the delivery of physiotherapy services in his community.

He has won a number of awards for his work, including the 2010 Australian Physiotherapy Association National Board of Directors Student Award for Leadership, the 2010 SARRAH Leadership Award and the 2010 Rural Health Workforce Australia Outstanding Leadership Award.

The judges commended the nomination for demonstrating a commitment to improving access to health services in rural communities.

Mr Mahony and the other finalists will be flown to Melbourne for an awards dinner on 6 June 2013, when the winners will be revealed.

A \$30,000 prize pool will be shared among the winners, courtesy of long-term HESTA awards sponsor, ME Bank. The Young Leader and the Individual Distinction Award winners will each receive a \$5,000 ME Bank *EveryDay* Transaction Account and a \$5,000 education grant. The Team Excellence Award winner will receive a \$10,000 development grant to put towards the implementation of their program or initiative.

HESTA is the leading super fund for health and community services, with more than 750,000 members and \$22 billion in assets. More people in health and community services choose HESTA for their super.

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