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Caloundra GP a finalist in national primary health awards

A Caloundra GP who helped to keep a patient with chronic kidney disease at home and out of hospital for as long as possible while he battled terminal illness, has been named a finalist in the 2013 HESTA Primary Health Care Awards.

Dr David Raine — of the Trinity Clinic — has been recognised as one of four finalists in the Individual Distinction award category, for his kindness, understanding and compassion that goes beyond expectations of his primary health care role.

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.

Dr Raine helped his patient to remain at home during his illness and to continue his dialysis treatment away from hospital by arranging outside care, service aides and making home visits every second day.

Dr Raine provided on-call support to the family of the ill man, who recall that, on one occasion, he answered a distress call at 3am and provided emergency assistance and care.

A statement from the family said that, while Dr Raine didn't ever offer any false hope, he was able to guide both the patient and the whole family through an extremely difficult time.

"We expect a lot from people providing health care, however Dr Raine consistently exceeds expectations," the family's statement of nomination said.

"Compassion, care, strength and support can sometimes be more beneficial in some situations than any medicinal treatment."

The judges commended the GP for acting in a caring and skilled way, giving priority to patients — especially those with higher needs.

Dr Raine 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.

Visit hestaawards.com.au for tickets for the awards dinner or to learn more about the awards.

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