

## HESTA national primary health care award winners announced

Last night, HESTA announced three extraordinary professionals working across the spectrum of primary health care as winners of the 2015 HESTA Primary Health Care Awards.

The winners included an outstanding individual improving Indigenous health across Australia; a team of regional podiatrists working to prevent diabetes related amputations; and a rural NSW Ambulance paramedic specialist driving greater patient care through mentoring, training and improving processes for paramedics.

Each winner was recognised for leadership excellence, expertise or service provision and innovation while working in primary health care in the categories of Individual Distinction, Team Excellence and Young Leader.

This year marks the third HESTA Primary Health Care Awards, a bi-annual event recognising 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.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey said this year's winners show the diversity of disciplines necessary to deliver outstanding levels of care, and better health outcomes.

"We are pleased to support professionals demonstrating exceptional leadership and commitment to improving patient care and access to services across Australia, while also having a positive impact on communities," Ms Blakey said.

### 2015 Award Winners

#### **Don Palmer – The Malpa Project, Gordon, NSW – 2015 Individual Distinction**

For starting an initiative that trains Indigenous children to be health ambassadors in their communities and bringing back traditional medicine to strengthen Aboriginal communities.

#### **Boab Health Podiatry – Boab Health Services, Broome, WA – 2015 Team Excellence**

For their work with preventing diabetes related amputations — the regional podiatrists provide the only podiatry service to the Kimberley Health Region in Western Australia.

#### **Matthew Simpson – NSW Ambulance, Leeton, NSW – 2015 Young Leader**

For his work in driving greater patient care through mentoring, training and improving processes for paramedics — he is involved in the delivery of contemporary out-of-hospital clinical care to patients.

The winners were announced at an awards dinner in Melbourne on 10 November. The 2015 HESTA Primary Health Care Awards winners share in a \$30,000 prize pool, generously provided by proud sponsor, **ME**.

The Young Leader and the Individual Distinction Award winners will each receive a \$5,000 **ME** Everyday transaction account and \$5,000 towards further education. The Team Excellence Award winner will receive a \$10,000 development grant.

For more information visit [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

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*The 2015 HESTA Primary Health Care Awards is a HESTA initiative, proudly sponsored by the bank owned by industry super funds, **ME**.*

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