

24 November 2017

## Aged care's most innovative & excellent awarded national honours

A chef who created innovative fine-dining experiences for residents, an induction program for Indigenous aged care workers, and an organisation that partnered with local festivals to present a schedule of arts programs and activities for its clients were all winners at the 2017 HESTA Aged Care Awards held in Adelaide last night.

HESTA CEO Debby Blakey, said the three winners demonstrate the vital role aged care professionals and organisations play in creating positive experiences for their clients and in supporting growth and recruitment in the sector.

"This year's winners have challenged the status quo and created innovative services and programs that rise to the challenge of providing high-quality care to the growing number of people in our community," Ms Blakey said.

"Through their work they are supporting innovation and growth in the sector – ensuring that the highest standards of care are delivered and that their clients continue to participate in fulfilling and engaging life experiences. Through the Awards we are proud to be able to recognise their outstanding work."

The winners were selected from 12 national finalists and were recognised for their exceptional contribution to improving the quality of life for older Australians across three Award categories – Team Innovation, Outstanding Organisation and Individual Distinction.

The winner of each category won a share in the \$30,000 prize pool, courtesy of proud awards sponsor ME – the bank for you.

### The 2017 winners are:

#### Team Innovation Award

##### **Aged Care Indigenous Induction Program Crest NT Nightcliff, NT**

Recognised for their outstanding work in developing culturally appropriate induction resources that support the recruitment and retention of Indigenous aged care employees across the Northern Territory.

Developed by the Crest NT team the Aged Care Indigenous Induction Program (ACIIP) provides a suite of educational resources for employers to train and induct new employees from Indigenous backgrounds. Resources that form part of the ACIIP include a 'Buddy Guide' that provides employers with tools like videos, case studies and questions designed to help new staff become work-ready.

Crest NT Director Sally Morris said one of the core aims of developing the ACIIP was to help provide support to the Northern Territory aged care sector – which is currently experiencing a shortage of skilled workers.

---

media  
contact:

Sam Riley  
Media Relations Manager  
(03) 8660 1684

...  
your stories,  
our inspiration

"The induction program began by consulting with aged care providers and workers in the Northern Territory, and what we found was that quite often, people start off in the aged care industry and don't get inducted properly or learn the necessary skills they need," said Sally.

Sally said the award win is recognition of their work and with the prize money they plan to begin designing more resources.

"People work so hard in the aged care industry and often don't get recognised. This is why being recognised for our impact is so rewarding. And with the money, we're planning to develop an additional resource to add to the induction kit," said Sally.

### **Individual Distinction Award**

**Gordon Manuel**  
**Mark Moran Group**  
**Vaucluse, NSW**

Gordon was awarded for his outstanding work in creating innovative aged care dining and culinary experiences for residents. Passionate about creating nutritious and tasty meals, Gordon has developed numerous culinary and dining experiences to support residents in celebrating and enjoying their lives.

A key innovation spearheaded by Gordon, includes creating meals that are nutritionally and visually flavoursome despite the fact that they have been modified due to dietary requirements.

Gordon's innovative approach to aged care dining, not only provides delicious and nutritious food but also promotes dignity, equality and fun, as residents are encouraged to continue to enjoy food and share meals with one another.

"It makes people happy, food is very important to people. When they move into residential facilities or aged care it's really important to give them a great experience. Food really helps shape this," said Gordon.

Gordon said this approach is about looking beyond what is typically expected in the aged care industry.

"We take the blinkers off the whole notion of aged care being an institution. We challenge things, we found that by doing this, we get innovative things done," said Gordon.

"To be recognised with an award is absolutely fantastic. We're looking at working with modified meals and we're looking at ways at improving these."

### **Outstanding Organisation Award**

**Southern Cross Care (SA & NT)**  
**Parkside, SA**

Southern Cross Care (SA & NT) was awarded for partnering with local Adelaide arts festivals to deliver an entertaining, engaging and practical arts program for residents and their families.

Through a collaborative partnership with the South Australian Living Art Festival and the Adelaide Fringe Festival, each year Southern Cross Care brings arts activities into their homes - capitalising on the benefits that creative expression, sense of achievement and art can have on the elderly.

The arts program includes events where residents engage with performers and artists, participate in art lessons and create their own art works.

---

**media  
contact:**

Sam Riley  
Media Relations Manager  
(03) 8660 1684

...  
your stories,  
our inspiration

Jo Boylan, Director of Operations said the program is about healthy ageing and positively influencing a person's wellbeing.

"We're absolutely committed to the quality of life of the people we care for. The reason we commit to this is because we can shape their outcomes. This means looking at their social, physical and psychological wellbeing," said Jo.

"When you think about art, you think about heart - it really helps our residents have fun, everyone feels they can express themselves, and everyone has a purpose and a sense of achievement."

With the \$10,000 prize money Jo said they plan to fund a community arts centre.

"With the award money we're going to establish an arts centre, this will attract volunteers who will also do art. This will be established and funded using this money, and coordinated through our Southern Cross Care artists in residence," said Jo.

Find out more about the HESTA Awards Program [hestaawards.com.au](https://hestaawards.com.au).

Ends.

---

**media  
contact:**

Sam Riley  
Media Relations Manager  
(03) 8660 1684

...  
your stories,  
our inspiration