

31 October 2017

Aged care's most outstanding recognised in national awards

Australia's most dedicated and ground-breaking aged care organisations, teams and individuals have been recognised, with 12 finalists announced in the 2017 HESTA Aged Care Awards.

The Awards recognise those in the aged care sector who have made an exceptional contribution to improving the quality of life for older Australians across three Award categories —Team Innovation, Outstanding Organisation and Individual Distinction.

HESTA CEO Debby Blakey, said this year's finalists have demonstrated outstanding leadership and commitment to improving the quality of life of Australians in their homes, retirement villages and aged care facilities across Australia.

"This year's finalists have proven themselves leaders in improving the way aged care services are delivered by challenging conventional thinking and developing innovative solutions to industry-wide challenges," Ms Blakey said.

"It's an honour to highlight the amazing work of these teams, organisations and individuals, whose unwavering commitment ensures the highest standard of care is provided to Australians."

The 2017 finalists are:

Team Innovation Award

Aged Care Indigenous Induction Program

Crest NT

Nightcliff, NT

For developing culturally appropriate and engaging induction resources that support the recruitment and retention of Indigenous aged care employees.

Catholic Homes

Burswood, WA

For developing the Comfort Care Centre, a specifically designed palliative care facility providing patients with end of life care, in a warm and welcoming environment.

Exercise Physiology in Aged Care Team

Helping Hand

North Adelaide, SA

For their outstanding innovation in developing Exercise Physiology programs leading to significant improvements in the cognitive, social and physical abilities of residents living with dementia.

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**Specialist Dialysis Team
Resthaven Incorporated
Wayville, SA**

For forming a specialist dialysis team in response to a community need for services that enable Australians with complex dialysis care needs to remain living at home, whilst also providing support to their carers through the provision of residential respite.

**Leisure and Lifestyle Team
Uniting Agewell Carnsworth Community
Kew, VIC**

For developing CIRCLE, an intergenerational program fostering friendship and learning between aged care residents and kindergarten children by bringing them together in an inclusive, fun environment.

Individual Distinction Award

**Anna Harrison
Umbrella Multicultural Community Care Services Inc.
Bedford, WA**

For establishing Umbrella, a not-for profit aged care service that celebrates the individual and cultural diversity of their clients.

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

For creating innovative fine-dining and culinary experiences for aged care residents, encouraging them to enjoy the social aspects of dining, whilst promoting holistic and positive ageing by providing nutritious and tasty food.

**Sandra Gilbert
Noosa Care
Tewantin, QLD**

For leading the development of specially designed outdoor spaces, allowing dementia residents to wander freely outside and encouraging them to continue enjoying the outdoors.

**Sara Marmo
Japara Healthcare
Southbank, VIC**

For her role in bringing elderly people from culturally diverse backgrounds in her community together to participate in social activities and events.

Outstanding Organisation Award

**Lifeview Residential Care
Carnegie, VIC**

For their employee growth and wellness initiative 'Be the Best You' that promotes inclusivity and wellbeing for staff by fostering a flexible and inclusive work culture.

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

For partnering with local Adelaide arts festivals to deliver an entertaining, engaging and practical arts therapy program for residents and their families.

**Vasey RSL Care
Hawthorn, VIC**

For their innovative community engagement project that utilised data and survey insights to better understand and address the needs of their veteran and war widow residents.

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

Winners will be announced at the 2017 HESTA Aged Care Awards on 23 November 2017 in Adelaide.

Find out more about the HESTA awards program hestaawards.com.au.

Ends.

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