

25 July 2017

Australia's most outstanding primary health care professionals recognised

Australia's most outstanding primary health care professionals have been recognised, with 15 finalists announced across three categories in the 2017 HESTA Primary Health Care Awards.

The awards recognise the dedication and professionalism of those working in primary health care across the categories of Individual Distinction, Team Excellence and Young Leader.

HESTA CEO Debby Blakey said the judges have selected a shortlist of individuals and teams who have demonstrated exceptional levels of care, dedication and innovative practices in primary health care settings across Australia.

"This year's finalists were selected for their outstanding contribution to health care in the areas of allied health, general practice, paediatric health and community outreach programs and services," Ms Blakey said.

"These finalists have displayed outstanding leadership and commitment to health care. They have developed a range of innovative programs and services which has led to improved health care outcomes for patients and the broader Australian community. We're proud to be able to help give these individuals and teams the recognition they deserve."

The 2017 finalists are:

Individual Distinction Award

Teresa DiFranco
Friendlies Pharmacy East Victoria Park
East Victoria Park, WA

For establishing Perth Diabetes Care — a multidisciplinary clinic providing holistic care and support services for people living with diabetes in Western Australia.

Dr Pamela Douglas
Possums Clinic
Highgate Hill, QLD

For developing and researching Neuroprotective Developmental Care in Early Life ('the Possums programs'), a primary care intervention for the support of parent and infant mental health.

Peter Georgilopoulos
Spine + Body Centre of Allied Health
Bundall, QLD

For his ground-breaking research into the treatment and prevention of sports injuries particularly management of hamstring, groin, neck and shoulder flexibility.

Dr Claire Jones
Australian Refugee and Migrant Care Services Limited (ARMCare)
Arana Hills, QLD

For founding the not-for-profit Australian Refugee and Migrant Care Services Limited (ARMCare) that provides health care support to refugees in Queensland.

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Clare MacFarlane
NAPA Centre Pty Ltd
Lane Cove West, NSW

For her expertise and leadership as director of NAPA Centre, a specialist clinic treating children with complex disabilities.

Team Excellence Award

The Healthy Lifestyle Team and #HerTribe
Victorian Aboriginal Health Service
Preston, VIC

For implementing #HerTribe — a 16-week health and empowerment program improving health and social outcomes for Aboriginal women and their families.

Austin Aphasia Integration Program
Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre, Austin Health Melbourne
Kew, VIC

For researching and implementing the Austin Aphasia Integration Program (AAIP) to improve the wellbeing, social participation and communication of people recovering from aphasia, an acquired communication disability commonly caused by stroke.

Lymphoedema Senior Management and Clinical Team
Calvary Public Hospital Bruce
Bruce, ACT

For expanding the specialised Lymphoedema treatment services offered by the Calvary Hospital to residents in Canberra and surrounding regions.

Mars Clinic for Children's Continence
Mars Clinic
Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Ipswich & Gold Coast, QLD

For implementing innovative assessment and treatment strategies to more accurately diagnose paediatric bladder and bowel conditions.

Paediatric Disability Rehab Team
NAPA Centre Pty Ltd
Lane Cove West, NSW

For their holistic multi-disciplinary approach to providing intensive rehabilitation programs for children with significant disabilities.

Young Leader Award

Nicole Cockburn
The University of Queensland
Herston, QLD

For developing Dental Rescue Week — a free dental service providing homeless youth dental treatment and oral health education.

Bertrand Doeuk
Brisbane Headache and Migraine Clinic
Springhill & Sunnybank Hills, QLD

For establishing The Brisbane Headache and Migraine Clinic that provides treatments for chronic headache and migraine sufferers without the use of medication.

Ryan Ebert
Healthlogic & PHW Group
Melbourne, VIC

For contributing to positive health improvements for office workers around Australia, by enhancing opportunities for movement through innovative office design solutions and workplace injury treatment solutions.

Nicole Pates
Perth Paediatric Physiotherapy
Shenton Park, WA

For establishing Perth Paediatric Physiotherapy, a holistic physiotherapy clinic, and mentoring physiotherapists to improve accessibility and quality of treatment for children with chronic conditions such as persistent pain, chronic fatigue syndrome, hypermobility spectrum disorders and complex regional pain syndrome.

Nicholas Schuster
Scarborough Physio and Health & Ultimate Physio
Scarborough, QLD

For establishing The Ultimate Physio a free social media leadership and professional development community for training and mentoring young physiotherapists and business owners in private practice.

Proud Awards sponsor **ME** – the bank for you, provides the \$30,000 prize pool, to be divided among the winners in three award categories —**Individual Distinction, Team Excellence** and **Young Leader**.

Each winner will receive \$10,000 in a **ME** Everyday Transaction account to use for further education or team development.

Finalists will receive complimentary registration for the 12th National Allied Health Conference, with interstate finalists flown to Sydney to attend the awards dinner on 27 August 2017.

Find out more at hestaawards.com.au.

Ends

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