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.
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 suffers 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