

Media Release

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Nominate now to recognise excellence in Australia's community sector

Now's the time to recognise those making exceptional contributions to social justice in Australia, by nominating them for the 2016 HESTA Community Sector Awards.

The Awards are presented by HESTA, in partnership with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), as part of its commitment to build a sustainable community sector and to support those affected by disadvantage and inequality.

Anyone can nominate an individual or organisation working in the community sector, with nominations closing on 19 August 2016.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey, said those working in the community sector make an invaluable contribution to building stronger, more inclusive communities.

"These Awards are an opportunity to recognise the outstanding work those in the sector do to improve the lives of individuals and communities often over a long period of time and in difficult circumstances," Ms Blakey said.

Long-standing Awards supporter, **ME** — the bank for you — generously provides a prize pool of \$30,000, shared among the winners across three award categories — Unsung Hero, Outstanding Organisation and Social Impact.

2015 Unsung Hero Award winner, Maureen Crawford, recently featured in HESTA's advertising campaign, which tells the stories of HESTA Award winners and shines a light on the outstanding work of people in health and community services. Maureen founded Interchange in Victoria — the first respite care program to support children with a disability and their families. Today, Interchange helps more than 4,000 children annually.

The 2015 Organisation Award was won by Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre, Western Australia, for its immersion-based, native language program for Indigenous children and young people. The organisation is revitalising the endangered native language with young children — through fun activities such as simple storytelling, songs, games, and arts and crafts that helps foster a sense of pride throughout the community.

Karen Barnett — of Port Phillip Housing Association in Victoria — won the 2015 Social Impact Award for her long-term commitment to providing affordable accommodation to low-income households and contributing to the development of local, state and national housing policies. Ms Barnett developed a profitable social housing business over 25 years that now has assets worth \$300 million, employs 35 staff and manages 1,083 tenancies.

The 2016 finalists will be announced on 18 October 2016, with the winners announced at the HESTA Community Sector Awards dinner on 17 November 2016.

To make a nomination or to learn more about the Awards visit hestaawards.com.au

Find out more about Maureen Crawford and her story at hesta.com.au/memberstories

Follow the Twitter conversation [@HESTACSawards](https://twitter.com/HESTACSawards)

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With over \$33 billion total assets and more than 800,000 members, more people in health and community services choose HESTA for their super.

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