

2 August 2017

## QLD shines brightest with seven finalists in the HESTA Primary Health Care Awards

Queensland primary health professionals have taken out seven of the top 15 finalists spots at the sector's most prestigious national awards.

The 2017 HESTA Primary Health Care Awards recognises outstanding standards of dedication and professionalism, with finalists shortlisted across individual and team categories for delivering life changing programs and services.

"It's a really strong showing this year from Queensland's Primary Health Care sector, who have been recognised with almost half the finalist spots in this year's awards," HESTA CEO Debby Blakey said.

"It's a testament to the outstanding work that's been done here to improve the health of Queenslanders right across the state."

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.

Ms Blakey said the expert judging panel identified an outstanding field of finalists who have each 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 QLD finalists are:

#### **Individual Distinction Award**

**Dr Pamela Douglas**  
**Possums Clinic**  
**Highgate Hill, QLD**

For developing and researching the Possums Approach — a primary care intervention program aimed at improving parent mental health, in the first months of their infant's life. Treating unsettled infant behaviour, the program has shown significant decreases in infant crying duration, and improvement in postnatal depressive symptoms of mothers.

**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. Peter used this research to develop

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'Flexibility 4 Life', a treatment approach focusing on the benefits of lumbar mobilisation, leading to immediately improved outcomes for patients.

**Dr Claire Jones**

**Australian Refugee and Migrant Care Services Limited (ARMCare)**

**Arana Hills, QLD**

For founding the Australian Refugee and Migrant Services Limited (ARMCare), a not-for-profit organisation that provides health care support to Karen-Burmese refugees in QLD. Claire volunteers as a liaison between refugees and general practitioners, increasing health equality for refugees facing barriers such as language, culture and lack of education when accessing health care.

**Team Excellence Award**

**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. The team identified a gap in assessment capability and introduced state-of-the-art technology to more precisely diagnose and treat patients.

**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. The free service provides a framework to inform other professions on how to implement a low cost, sustainable service using the same format.

**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. Bertrand's treatments has a 85-90% success rate, helping provide sufferer's relief without the need for medication, which can cause long-term dependency and health problems.

**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.

Further details of all other national finalists are available [here](#).

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](http://hestaawards.com.au)

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