

Media Release

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Search begins for Australia's best aged care professionals

Now is the time to recognise those going above and beyond in aged care, by nominating them for the 2016 HESTA Aged Care Awards.

Presented by HESTA, in partnership with the National Aged Care Alliance, the national Awards acknowledge excellence in service provision, advocacy, leadership and innovation in the aged care sector.

Nominations are being sought from employers, colleagues, recipients of care and family members, and are open until 27 May.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey, said the Awards recognise the amazing work carried out by aged care professionals, often in challenging circumstances.

"Each day, aged care professionals around the country are working tirelessly to improve the quality of life of thousands of older Australians," Ms Blakey said.

"The Awards are a way of acknowledging individuals, teams and organisations that provide leadership, innovation and professionalism in aged care service delivery."

ME is a longstanding Awards-supporter, with the bank generously providing the \$30,000 prize pool, to be divided among the winners in three award categories — Outstanding Organisation, Team Innovation and Individual Distinction.

Winners will receive \$10,000 in a ME Everyday Transaction Account towards further education or team development.

Catholic Healthcare's Charles O' Neill Hostel in Newcastle won the Team Innovation Award in 2015 for its unique program providing care to older Australians suffering mental illness.

Residential Manager, Kristen Grainger said that the prize money would help fund the introduction of an art therapist to work with residents on a weekly basis and contribute to further staff development and education.

The Outstanding Organisation Award was won by Victoria's Southern Cross Care for Employee Development and Empowerment Program that improved the skills, health and lives of its predominantly female and culturally and linguistically diverse workforce.

Paul Brophy — from the Brotherhood of St Laurence's Sambell Lodge in Victoria — was recognised for the Individual Distinction award for staging musical events for more than 6,000 residents from 20 care homes.

The 2016 finalists will be announced in July and interstate finalists will be flown to Canberra for the Awards dinner on 4 August.

To see more about HESTA's Awards Program go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ib9LULyoz24>

Make a nomination or learn more at hestaawards.com

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

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

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