

13 June 2018

Search is on for Australia's community sector leaders

Nominations are now open for the 2018 HESTA Community Sector Awards, recognising people and organisations making exceptional contributions to social justice in Australia.

Presented by HESTA in partnership with the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS), the national Awards recognise excellence in service provision, advocacy and leadership in the community sector.

Anyone can nominate an individual or organisation with nominations closing on 03 August 2018.

HESTA CEO Debby Blakey said the Awards provide the chance to recognise the life-changing impact those working in the community sector have on supporting people and communities experiencing disadvantage.

"The Awards are an opportunity to highlight the amazing work of community sector organisations and individuals, whose work significantly improves the lives of others and helps build a stronger, fairer Australia," Ms Blakey said.

"Their work provides invaluable support to people who are often experiencing poverty, disadvantage and discrimination, I encourage anyone who knows a person or organisation making a difference to submit a nomination."

ME – the bank for you – a longstanding Awards sponsor, are generously providing the \$30,000 prize pool, to be divided among the winners in the three Award categories – **Unsung Hero**, **Outstanding Organisation** and **Social Impact**.

The winners of each Award category will receive \$10,000 in a ME Everyday Transaction account towards further education or service provision development.

The 2017 winners were:

Unsung Hero Award

Jenny Glare
Heritage and Information Services at Mackillop Family Services
South Melbourne, VIC

Jenny was recognised for helping people raised in orphanages and children's homes access historical records and information from their time spent in child institutions across Victoria.

Outstanding Organisation Award

WEstjustice
Footscray and Werribee, VIC

WEstjustice was recognised for establishing the 'Employment Law Project' which helps migrants and refugees living in the western suburbs of Melbourne overcome disadvantage in employment.

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Social Impact Award

**Community Legal Centres Queensland
Stones Corner, QLD**

Community Legal Centres Queensland was recognised for successfully campaigning for increased Government funding for their services, which provide support and advocacy to 33 independent, community-led legal centres across Queensland.

Submit an online nomination today at hestaawards.com.au.

Ends.

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