

## Winners of national nursing awards announced

Last night, a Perth nurse that developed a blood management program for patients undergoing major surgery, a NSW team that launched an innovative Indigenous meal range and a graduate nurse that improved patient communication strategies received top honours at the 2016 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

In its tenth year, Australia's most prestigious national nursing awards identify and recognise nurses, midwives, personal care attendants, and assistants in nursing who excel in their area of expertise or service provision across three categories — Nurse of the Year, Outstanding Graduate and Team Excellence.

HESTA CEO, Debby Blakey said this year's winners exemplified the finest qualities of the nursing profession, and were leaders in their field.

"These winners stood out from an exceptional group of finalists for being instrumental in leading innovation and improved practices that provide the highest quality care to patients, Ms Blakey said.

"Each winner was selected by an independent judging panel from nominations that came in from across the country. They each demonstrated outstanding nursing skills, dedication to their profession and commitment to achieving the best health outcomes for their patients."

"We are proud to acknowledge the winners of this year's nursing awards for the life-changing work they do, this is national recognition each of the winners richly deserves."

### 2016 Award winners

#### 2016 Nurse of the Year

**Angie Monk**

**Ramsay Health Care — Joondalup Health Campus, Joondalup, WA**

Angie was recognised for her advocacy and leadership in developing an innovative Patient Blood Management Program that improved outcomes and recovery for patients undergoing surgery involving significant blood loss.

The first Blood Management Consultant to be appointed to the WA private sector, Angie has played a leading role in advocating for improved practices, delivering extensive education and training to colleagues and others in the sector.

A true pioneer in her field, she has developed a range of ground-breaking initiatives to ensure that patients are also better prepared for major surgery involving potential large blood loss.

#### 2016 Outstanding Graduate

**Shelley Cook**

**Alfred Health, Prahran, Vic**

Shelley demonstrated courage and leadership in advocating for patient care. She also stood out to the judges for playing a leading role in developing and supporting a staff training project aimed at raising awareness about communication strategies when working with culturally and linguistically diverse patients.

Shelley has demonstrated outstanding collaborative skills, mentoring colleagues new to nursing.

#### 2016 Team Excellence

**Clinical Service Team**

**integratedliving Australia, Muswellbrook, NSW**

Bron McCrae and the clinical service team launched an innovative Indigenous meal range into a community meals program that provides culturally appropriate dishes, using native 'wild food' ingredients that promote improved diet and health outcomes.

Integratedliving is a key provider of in-home support services for the elderly in regional, rural and remote areas and a significant number of clients are Indigenous.

The clinical team were recognised for identifying an opportunity to fulfil a community need with an innovative approach to meals provision for Aboriginal people aimed at reducing the higher prevalence of negative health outcomes related to diet and nutrition.

The winners were announced at an awards dinner in Melbourne on 12 May — International Nurses Day.

The winners will share a \$30,000 prize pool, generously provided by our longstanding Awards supporter **ME**, the bank for you.

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