your true colours

Wednesday 6 May 2020
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A prize pool of $30,000 will be shared among our nation’s best nursing and midwifery professionals, thanks to the generous support from our proud partner ME. We think each person nominated for an award deserves to be acknowledged for the great work they do every day, so every nominee will receive a certificate of congratulations.

Thanks and appreciation to our judges who have had the difficult task of selecting the winners across each of the three categories: Midwife of the Year, Nurse of the Year and Outstanding Organisation.

On behalf of HESTA, ME and the awards judging panel, we hope you enjoy tonight’s presentation as we honour the finalists and winners for 2020.

Debby Blakey
Chief Executive Officer
HESTA

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Two-time Walkley Award winner, Virginia Trioli, is one of Australia’s best-known journalists, with a formidable reputation as a television anchor, radio presenter, writer and commentator. She is much sought-after as a speaker and MC, and combines a rigorous interviewing style with an often wicked sense of humour.

Virginia is an honours graduate in Fine Arts from the University of Melbourne and La Trobe University, and in 1996 published, Generation F her celebrated response to Helen Garner’s ‘First Stone’.

She’s won two Walkley Awards, and in 1999 she won the Melbourne Press Club’s Best Columnist award, The Quill. In 2006 she won Broadcaster of the Year at the ABC Local Radio Awards.

Virginia has held senior positions at The Age newspaper and the Bulletin magazine. For eight years she hosted the Drive Program on 774 ABC Melbourne, and the Morning Program on 702 ABC Sydney. She has hosted ABC TV’s premiere news and current affairs programs, Lateline, Artscape and Sunday Arts and is a regular fill-in host on Q&A.

Virginia has previously been co-host of the ABC’s breakfast television program News Breakfast and currently hosts the morning program on 774 ABC Melbourne.
This award recognises the achievements of individual nurses in the delivery of outstanding patient care.

nurse of the year finalists

Angela Casey
Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network
Westmead & Randwick, NSW

Angela Casey is recognised for her exceptional leadership, advocacy and fundraising to improve quality care for sick newborn infants and their families. Angela has transformed the Grace Centre for Newborn Intensive Care (GCNIC) into a leader in neonatal care. As the centre’s co-head, she has a wide-ranging role leading the development of standards for safety reporting, scope of responsibilities, staff training programs and more across the Critical Care Program and was also instrumental in establishing the Australasian Nursery Assessment and Certification Program Training Centre – the first and only such centre in Australia.

As the Clinical Program Director of the Critical Care Service across the Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network, she has ensured nursing has a seat at the leadership table. She has also championed the ‘Park Bench’ initiative to raise awareness of the effects of decisions on nurses and has empowered nurses to ask questions and receive support when difficult decisions are made.

Angela was instrumental in setting up the Leadership Special Interest Group within the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses, mentoring and inspiring more nurses to take on leadership roles.

Tania Green
Plastic Surgery Unit, Monash Health
Clayton VIC

Tania Green is recognised for her work to improve care for patients with cleft and craniofacial conditions and their families. Tania looks after more than 500 patients as the clinical nurse coordinator for Monash Health’s Cleft and Craniofacial Unit and has been instrumental in improving awareness of the treatment and care required for cleft-affected babies. She has developed protocols for Monash Health that have increased the education and confidence of staff involved in the care of these patients, and works with the special care nursery and neonatal staff to ensure these babies’ medical needs are met.

Tania was instrumental in setting up antenatal consultations for parents expecting a baby with a cleft lip and/or palate, reducing their anxiety, and has worked to reduce the number of hospital visits families need, saving them time and easing financial pressures for those who need to travel from afar. She has also fostered strong, collaborative relationships with other health organisations to improve the delivery of care, particularly through her volunteer work with CleftPALS, a not-for-profit organisation that provides support for cleft-affected people and their families. Tania is incredibly committed to her work and her patients and frequently goes above and beyond to ensure families get the care and support they need. Her enthusiasm and warm, empathetic nature has been praised and welcomed by patients, families and colleagues alike.
Rafael Serrano Real
Royal Children’s Hospital
Parkville VIC

Rafael Serrano Real is recognised for his work as Australia’s leading paediatric oncofertility coordinator to improve fertility care for families of children undergoing cancer treatment. Rafael runs the Royal Children’s Hospital’s (RCH) flagship oncofertility program for children and has transformed the way the hospital delivers fertility care for families. He has streamlined and enhanced the experience of all patients and their families when it comes to receiving support and care on fertility issues. He has also demonstrated exceptional sensitivity and empathy, providing a way for families to have their child’s gonadal tissue returned to them for cremation or burial if their child has passed away.

He provides training to RCH’s clinical teams and has contributed to the development of the RCH Fertility Preservation Principles and Guidance, which has been shared to all 13 paediatric oncology centres in Australia and internationally. Rafael also hosted a binational coalition of paediatric oncology centres at the RCH last year, which aims to develop national paediatric guidelines in oncofertility and establish national benchmarks of care, and is supporting global advocacy efforts to see fertility care classified as a basic human right through his membership with the Global Oncofertility Consortium, comprising 43 countries. Rafael has been the Victorian Representative for the Fertility Nurses of Australasia since 2017 and has been instrumental in consolidating, organising and promoting fertility nurse education in Victoria.

Kate Weger
Southern Cross Care (SA, NT & VIC) Inc
Glenside SA

Kate Weger is recognised for her work to deliver better wound prevention and care, improving the lives of older people. In 2018, Kate established the Wound Champions program to increase the knowledge and delivery of best-practice wound care and prevention to over 1600 residents in Southern Cross Care’s residential care facilities.

Kate has created a holistic approach to wound prevention and care through the program. She has worked collaboratively to develop an improved system to identify wounds and track patients’ recovery, and has provided on-the-job education, mentoring and support for staff to deliver better care for residents.

Residents’ quality of life has improved dramatically, from healing faster to feeling more independent and less anxious, with one resident making a full recovery without the need for amputation.

Kate, who has worked in aged care for 15 years, is also a strong advocate for older people’s wellbeing. For example, she established bi-monthly Wound and Healthy Skin Promotion Committee meetings which develop evidence-based strategies to drive best practice and innovation in wound management. And she coordinated and hosted SCC’s inaugural Wound and Healthy Skin Promotion forum.

At ME, we’re proud to be the major partner of the HESTA Awards, celebrating achievements across health and community services. ME was created by industry super funds like HESTA to help everyday Australians get ahead, with straightforward, people-shaped banking.

While HESTA works to maximise your super for the future, ME gives HESTA members a convenient and low-cost way to do their everyday banking – so they’re free to get on with the more important things in life.
Dawn Reid is recognised for her work providing quality antenatal care and other specialty health services to families in rural Queensland. Dawn provides an inclusive and empowering local service to families in the Lockyer Valley through her midwifery clinic. She goes above and beyond for her clients to foster a supportive and safe birthing environment. Dawn takes time to understand the expecting family, and strives to meet their needs, including supporting each family member – not just the mother – throughout the antenatal process.

Dawn is a staunch and passionate advocate for midwifery group practice. She has urged mothers publicly to educate and inform themselves about the midwifery services available to them, encouraging them to adhere to their birth plans safely and seek interventions only when necessary. Dawn has also improved the provision of vital specialty health services, such as family planning and sexual healthcare, to the area. Limited numbers of female medical practitioners and a mostly transient medical workforce can be a significant deterrent for women to seek routine and life-saving screening such as pap smears. Dawn has filled this gap in the Lockyer Valley, meeting demand for these critical services with professionalism and confidence.

Cassandra Nest is recognised for her dedication to improving the delivery of culturally safe, quality maternity care to more Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the Gold Coast, particularly through the implementation of the Waijungbah Jarjums Service. Cassandra is a proud Ngunnawal woman and the first Aboriginal woman to join the midwifery group practice at Gold Coast University Hospital (GCUH), where she has led the way building a culturally safe midwifery workforce.

Cassandra was instrumental in setting up GCUH’s Waijungbah Jarjums Service, an innovative maternity health service that provides care and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, delivered by First Peoples midwives and nurses. Cassandra, who was also the first Aboriginal woman to complete Griffith University’s Bachelor of Midwifery, is an inspiration to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander midwifery students, whom she mentors, supports and educates.

The impact of Cassandra’s work to improve First Peoples’ health is far reaching. Since Cassandra joined GCUH in 2017, the number of First Peoples’ women and babies accessing GCUH maternity services has increased from three to 57, with the number of First Peoples’ midwives at GCUH increasing from one to five. Gold Coast Health data shows there have been significant improvements in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women engaging in care, families’ satisfaction with care and babies with low birth weight.
Kristy Wiegele is recognised for her work with cuddle cots to improve care and support for grieving parents who have experienced pregnancy loss. After supporting a young family in 2014 who were unable to spend time with their stillborn son, Kristy was inspired to raise funds to purchase a cuddle cot for the hospital. A cuddle cot circulates refrigerated air continuously underneath the baby bassinet, allowing parents to spend more time with and grieve their stillborn babies. Kristy raised the $4000 needed to purchase the cot in just 10 days. Kristy has since personally raised $85,000 to purchase more cuddle cots – enough for nearly every maternity hospital in Western Australia. Her partnership with the WA Department of Health has also seen the contribution of a further $39,200 for another eight cots.

Kristy continues to raise awareness of perinatal loss and stillbirth through her advocacy, education and fundraising. She travels in her own time and at her own expense across the state to personally deliver the cuddle cots and to educate other midwives on their use. She also runs cuddle cot education sessions at hospitals and continues to raise awareness of pregnancy loss through conference presentations and specialist panel discussions. Kristy also educates and mentors other midwives to provide perinatal loss support, and she has commenced a perinatal loss specialist program at St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital. Her expertise, compassion and dedication have been celebrated by her peers and by the families for whom she cares.

**Kristy Wiegele**
**St John of God Mt Lawley Hospital**
**Mount Lawley WA**

This award recognises an organisation that has demonstrated a commitment to creating a better future for people working in nursing and/or midwifery.
Gold Coast Health has been recognised for its work to improve maternal mental health care and support for new mothers and their babies. Gold Coast Health opened a statewide public service in March 2017 that caters for women with severe mental illness and their infants younger than one year old. The Lavender Mother and Baby Unit (MBU), as Queensland’s first and only public mother-baby unit, strives to be a beacon of perinatal excellence, aims to improve maternal mental health, helps develop favourable mother-baby relationships and parenting skills, and supports mothers in their daily routine.

Interactive group and individual sessions are provided to the mothers and babies, such as infant massage groups, sensory modulation sessions and cooking classes, conducted by medical, allied health and nursing staff. The team behind the service has seen the creation of resources such as a sensory modulation workbook, wellbeing handouts and play activities for babies, and has recently been awarded a grant to transform its courtyard into a ‘sensory garden’ to improve therapeutic outcomes for patients.

The Lavender MBU has admitted more than 150 mothers and has seen significant improvement in the quality of mother-infant interactions and postpartum bonding, with new mothers showing increased parenting confidence and less psychological distress.

Disability services provider Northcott is recognised for its work to develop a program to improve the autonomy, choice and control of people with disability, and ultimately, their quality of life. Northcott’s Specialist Supported Living team establish strong relationships with residents, supporting their health needs, and providing opportunities for residents to learn new skills, live independently and engage in social activities.

Northcott worked with partner organisation Northcott Innovation to develop the ‘Small Things’ program to reduce health inequalities that are often faced by people with disability and improve both their health and quality of life. The program allows staff to identify moments where quality of care and quality of life can be enhanced for each individual, as well as increasing the skills and capabilities of team members. Small Things has enabled the Specialist Supported Living team to improve residents’ quality of life by targeting small moments of interaction and engagement.

The result is a bespoke, multidisciplinary, peer-led and fully customised program that supports people with disability. The program has shown seemingly small changes have big impacts in the relationships between nurses and their patients, and improved team culture and patient care.

Ovarian Cancer Australia is recognised for its research, advocacy and support for women affected by ovarian cancer, especially its work to reduce the prevalence of ovarian cancer and improve early detection and survival rates.

With 1500 Australian women expected to be diagnosed with ovarian cancer this year, Ovarian Cancer Australia provides specialised services and resources for different stages of cancer diagnosis and treatment. Six specialist cancer nurses are part of a team supporting women through their cancer experience. An Ovarian Cancer Support Nurse has overseen the development of a resource, ‘the resilience kit’, that gives women access to much-needed, reliable information. The organisation’s network for younger women diagnosed with ovarian cancer is led by an Ovarian Cancer Support Nurse, who connects younger women with experts on a wide range of topics.

The organisation has also developed a National Action Plan to coordinate research efforts to improve survival rates. Ovarian Cancer Australia is supporting Australia’s first research project on how an ovarian cancer diagnosis impacts a woman’s male partner.

Ovarian Cancer Australia has developed ovarian cancer prevention and early detection programs for women at high risk of developing ovarian cancer. The organisation’s helpline supports women through their cancer experience through access to specialist nurses, counselling and referral to support services.