

Media Release
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Last call for WA entries to 2010 nursing awards

Time is running out for West Australians to nominate for one of the nation's most prestigious nursing awards – the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing can be nominated for the 2010 awards, which carry a \$25,000 prize pool.

"The close of nominations has been extended to Sunday 7 March to give people around Australia the chance to say 'thanks' to these indispensable professionals," HESTA CEO Anne-Marie Corboy said.

"The awards promote the nursing profession, as well as honouring the courage, compassion and skill of individual nurses."

"If you know an outstanding nurse who deserves recognition, or know of a nurse-led innovation that would benefit from a development grant, I urge you make a nomination online today in the Nurse of the Year, Innovation in Nursing or Graduate Nurse of the Year categories."

More than 1,400 nurses have been nominated for the awards since they were founded four years ago.

"The HESTA Australian Nursing Awards always uncover impressive and inspiring stories," Ms Corboy said.

"Our judging panel of trained nurses, academics and industry representatives is looking forward to hearing about another group of amazing nurses."

In 2009, veteran St John of God Murdoch Hospital nurse Joanne Newman was a finalist in the awards, for her initiative of making handmade quilts to wrap children who pass away in the emergency department. The Nurse of the Year winner in 2008 was Samantha Gibson, from Subiaco's St John of God Hospital, for her outstanding care of a young mother with terminal cancer.

Nurses, colleagues, patients and patients' families make nominations for Nurse of the Year category, while teams and individuals usually self-nominate in the Innovation in Nursing category and Graduate Nurse Coordinators make nominations for Graduate Nurse of the Year category.

The Nurse of the Year wins \$10,000 in education and travel grants, the Innovation in Nursing winner receives a \$10,000 grant for their service or program and the Graduate Nurse of the Year will benefit from \$5000 in education and travel grants. The prize money is provided by ME Bank, a supporter of the awards since 2008.

Every person making a nomination will receive a certificate to present to the nurse they nominated – ensuring that finalists and non-finalists know their work is appreciated.

Finalists will be announced in April and those from interstate will be flown to Melbourne for a gala awards ceremony, at the Crown Entertainment Complex, on Thursday 13 May 2010.

The awards program and event is coordinated by HESTA, one of Australia's largest superannuation funds. HESTA has 680,000 members and is the industry super fund for those working in the health and community services sector.

Visit www.hestanursingawards.com to make a nomination and to purchase tickets to attend the awards ceremony.

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