

Media Release
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Finalists announced in national nursing awards

Twelve of Australia's best nurses and nursing teams were today named finalists in the 2011 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

HESTA CEO, Anne-Marie Corboy, thanked more than 480 people who took the time to nominate an amazing nurse or innovation.

"Each nomination is a moving story of triumph in our major cities, suburbs and tiny rural towns. We are delighted to highlight the life-saving and life-giving work of these nurses," said Ms Corboy.

The HESTA Australian Nursing Awards finalists for 2011 are:

NURSE OF THE YEAR: winner receives \$10,000 in education and travel grants

Rebecca Burgess, Churches of Christ, St George, QLD, for managing two evacuations of an aged-care facility during floods

Paul Esplin, Homeless Health Service, St Vincent's Hospital and Mission Australia, Sydney, NSW, for his advocacy on behalf of the homeless people of Sydney

Judy Frecker, Royal District Nursing Service, VIC, for her care and advocacy for an HIV-positive couple and their family facing discrimination

Merrilyn Hewett, Barunga Village Inc, Port Broughton, SA, for transformational leadership in aged care

Louise Orme, Street Doctor Perth Primary Care Network, WA, for helping to save the life of a suicidal patient in her work with homeless and transient people in Perth's CBD

INNOVATION IN NURSING: winner receives \$10,000 grant to develop a service or program

Amanda Klahr and team (The Geriatric Flying Squad) for their rapid response and multi-disciplinary model of homecare, War Memorial Hospital, NSW

Karen Blyth and team for their innovative care model for HIV positive women, Alfred Health, VIC

Angela Cutting for her pre-school immunisation awareness program, Limestone Coast Division of General Practice and Beachport Medical Services, SA

Suzanne Rosenberg for her neonatal care packages for emergency department use, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, WA

GRADUATE NURSE OF THE YEAR: winner receives \$5,000 in education and travel grants

Lucy Houghton, Flinders Medical Centre, SA

Marissa Zaknich, Broken Hill Hospital, NSW

Zena Coffey, Austin Health, VIC

The winners will be announced at a gala awards ceremony on Florence Nightingale's birthday – 12 May. Interstate finalists will be flown to Melbourne for the event at Crown Entertainment Complex.

The \$25,000 prize pool is provided by ME Bank, a supporter of the awards since 2008.

HESTA is one of Australia's largest superannuation funds with more than 700,000 members. It is chosen by more people working in health and community services than any other fund.

Visit hestanursingawards.com to book tickets for the event or learn more about the finalists.

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