

Media Release
21 January 2011

The search for Australia's best nurses

Nominations open for 2011 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards

Communities across Australia are being encouraged to nominate their most remarkable nursing professionals – in the 2011 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

The Awards, now in their fifth year, acknowledge outstanding nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing.

"Nurses don't go looking for glory. But the role they play in our communities is incredibly important", said HESTA CEO, Anne-Marie Corboy.

"The HESTA Australian Nursing Awards are an avenue to recognise those in the nursing sector."

With a prize pool of \$25,000 – across the categories of Nurse of the Year, Innovation in Nursing and Graduate Nurse of the Year – the Awards reward the skills, commitment and contribution of Australia's top nurses.

"Each year we receive hundreds of amazing nominations. The stories are truly inspiring. They are about nurses working in trying circumstances, nurses with innovative ideas and nurses who make an extraordinary effort," said Ms Corboy.

"We hear of these stories because patients, families of patients, colleagues and employers take the time to tell us. This is a wonderful aspect of the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards – that everyone who is nominated has made a difference."

Finalists in the 2010 awards included:

- Victorian graduate nurse, Jess Trubiano for her work with homeless, mentally ill and drug addicted mothers-to-be;
- Kimberley-based Brendan Roche for his work at the Balago Clinic with Indigenous men's health; and
- Royal Hobart Hospital's Ian Nethery for his pivotal role in founding The Nell Williams Unit, Australia's first emergency department offering specialised care to older and dementia patients.

The Nurse of the Year winner was mental health nurse Charlotte Collins from Fremantle Hospital. Ms Collins was recognised for her advocacy of vulnerable patients and advanced negotiation skills in crisis situations.

South Australian emergency nurse, James Bonello, won the Graduate Nurse of the Year Award for his commitment to ongoing education, holistic care and community work.

St Vincent's Private Hospital clinical nurse educator, Jacinta Vanderpuije, won the Innovation in Nursing Award. Ms Vanderpuije led her team in the development of a unique diagnostic chart for prostate surgery patients.

"Thousands of Australians will turn to a nurse for help this year," said Ms Corboy. "We invite those who have experienced 'above and beyond' care or who may work alongside an amazing nurse to nominate them for an award."

Nominations for Nurse of the Year can be made by anyone in the community. Teams and individuals usually self-nominate for Innovation in Nursing. Graduate Nurse Coordinators may nominate their most promising graduates for Graduate Nurse of the Year.

Prizes, provided by ME Bank, are:

- Nurse of the Year – \$5,000 travel voucher and \$5,000 education grant;
- Innovation in Nursing – \$10,000 development grant; and
- Graduate Nurse of the Year – \$2,500 travel voucher and \$2,500 education grant.

Nominations for the 2011 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards will close on Monday 28 February 2011. Finalists will be announced in April. All those from interstate, who are in the running for an award, will be flown to Melbourne. The winners will be revealed at the gala awards ceremony on 12 May, which is also Florence Nightingale's birthday.

To make a nomination or learn more about the Awards visit **hestanursingawards.com**

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

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