

HESTA Australian Nursing Awards
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Do you know Victoria's best nurse?

Nominations open for the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards

Communities across Victoria have been asked to identify their best nurses as nominations open for the 2012 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

The sixth annual awards recognise exceptional nurses, midwives, personal care attendants and assistants in nursing from across the country, all of whom are eligible for nomination.

"The Victorian health system is teeming with high-calibre nursing professionals who don't always get the recognition they deserve," said HESTA CEO, Anne-Marie Corboy.

"The HESTA Australian Nursing Awards are an opportunity to thank those outstanding nurses and recognise their invaluable contribution to our community."

A \$30,000 prize pool — provided by ME Bank — will be divided between three winners in the categories of Nurse of the Year, Innovation in Nursing and Graduate Nurse of the Year.

"Every year we are inundated with nominations describing the commitment and dedication of nurses, many of whom work in challenging circumstances," said Ms Corboy.

"We want to hear from patients, colleagues and employers who have witnessed an extraordinary act by a nurse, or watched a nurse relentlessly put in the hard yards over time. Whether it is a one-off deed or an ongoing commitment to the industry and patients, the awards recognise people who make a real difference."

The 2011 winners were:

- Paul Esplin from Medibeat, a program run by Mission Australia in partnership with the St Vincent's Hospital Homeless Health Service. Paul was named Nurse of the Year for his work with Sydney's homeless population
- Zena Coffey from Austin Health in Victoria. Zena won Graduate Nurse of the Year for her commitment to education, holistic care and effective communication
- The Geriatric Flying Squad from War Memorial Hospital in NSW, which won the Innovation in Nursing Award for a rapid-response program assisting elderly patients in their homes.

All members of the public and the health sector are invited to nominate a potential Nurse of the Year. Graduate Nurse of the Year nominations must come from Graduate Nurse Coordinators, while groundbreaking nurses and nursing teams are encouraged to apply for the Innovation in Nursing prize.

The 2012 prizes, provided by long-term awards supporter 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 – \$5,000 travel voucher and \$5,000 education grant.

Nominations for the 2012 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards will close on Wednesday 29 February 2012. Finalists will be announced in April. Interstate finalists will be flown to Melbourne for the gala awards ceremony on Thursday 10 May where the winners will be revealed.

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

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HESTA is one of Australia's largest superannuation funds with more than 730,000 members. It is chosen by more people working in the health and community services sector, than any other fund.