



Media Release

Friday, 4 September 2015

Australian palliative care workers recognised

Australian researchers, leaders, innovators and teams working in palliative care were recognised at last night's Inaugural Palliative Care Australia National Awards.

From people working to build palliative care awareness and clinical approaches in India through to research aimed at earlier palliative care intervention and support to families the award winners are making a significant contribution to the delivery of palliative care both here and overseas.

Palliative Care Australia (PCA) CEO Liz Callaghan said the winners were selected from a very strong group of applications across the categories, showing Australian palliative care is in very good hands.

"We were overwhelmed by the response, and very grateful to hand choosing winners over to our expert panel. The winners tonight are just a very small representation of the great work being done – often without fanfare – by palliative care teams, volunteers and health professionals across the country."

Ms Callaghan said PCA felt it was important to acknowledge and celebrate Australia's achievements in palliative care.

"The first Australian Palliative Care Conference was held in 1990 and it almost mirrors the growth of the sector in Australia. Palliative care is a very young area of healthcare and Australia is making a contribution to how the world views and understands palliative care. We want to recognise the great work being done here," she said.

The winners take home a trophy and a financial contribution to further professional development (\$2000 for individuals and \$4000 for teams). This is the first year awards have been made and they will be presented every two years as part of the Australian Palliative Care Conference run by Palliative Care Australia.

Winners:

Emerging Leader: Zoe Mitchell, Senior Social Worker, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth, Western Australia

Emerging Researcher: Anna Collins, Centre for Palliative Care, Victoria

Outstanding Teamwork: Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Nambour, Queensland

Innovation in Palliative Care: Project Hamrahi, lead: Dr Odette Spruyt, Australasian Palliative Link International, Western Australia

The Inaugural PCA National Awards are supported by My Life My Super.

Individual media releases on each of the award winners can be obtained from the PCA media team.

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