



CATHOLIC HEALTH AUSTRALIA NATIONAL AWARDS 2018

EMBARGO 9pm 28 August 2018

The Catholic Health Australia National Awards 2018 pays tribute to exemplary innovation, excellence and contribution to health and aged care.

The Awards were presented at the National Catholic Health Australia Conference dinner held in Melbourne this week (28 Aug).

CHA's Chief Executive Suzanne Greenwood said the recipients have demonstrated novel, leading edge practice and excellence from a strong field of applicants.

CHA represents 80 not-for-profit hospitals and 440 aged care facilities employing 83,300 people.

"We congratulate the winners, both individuals and teams, and their employers which have provided the faith and support needed for these innovators to pursue their ideas.

"Each winner has displayed tremendous care, compassion and dedication to those in their care, to improving quality and meaning of life."

The National Award winners:

Sr Maria Cunningham Lifetime Contribution Award - Catherine (Kate) Birrell OAM, Melbourne

For 40 years of dedication to nursing, nursing education, and Catholic health (see media release)

Leadership in Positive Ageing - Ozcare, Ozanam Villa Burleigh Heads

Ozcare Burleigh Heads has proven you are never too old to learn or to learn from new cultures. At Ozanam residents are Skyping Japan in a ground-breaking program bringing cultures together. There is a sharing of language, stories, songs and poetry. Residents are also staying young with intergenerational initiatives that bring life and love with visits to and from the local childcare, Kindy, Catholic Primary School and College.

Emerging Leader- Peta Sullivan, Mater Group, Brisbane

Project: Bringing Back Experience – Nurse Refresher Course

Peta developed Queensland's first nurse refresher course to enable experienced clinicians to re-enter acute healthcare setting. (See media release)

Nurse of the Year - Lorna O'Brien, Director of Nursing, St John of God, Richmond

Transformed the hospital's patient management system from paper to digital, drove the development of a Consumer Partnership Committee and strengthened a culture of collaboration. Lorna exudes compassion and enthusiasm building strong and happy teams around her.

Outreach Health Care- Mercy Palliative Care, Werribee

Launched a 24/7 in-home and overnight Palliative Care service for Melbourne City and surrounding western suburbs, a catchment of 1,060,000 people, with 600 patients currently requiring care of Mercy. The program has reduced fear, uncertainty, and anxiety for people who are dying as well as their loved ones. Every palliative care patient who calls for assistance has access to specialist care



around the clock including overnight stay during the final phase of care. In the space of six weeks 89 patients were visited during the hours of 10:30pm-7am.

Excellence in Pastoral Care- Calvary Health Care Bethlehem- Anneliise Way, Vic

Project overview: Songwriting Legacy Project: Uluru We Look to You

This program provides people at the end of life with the opportunity to create a legacy song. Music therapist Anneliis Way works with patients on writing a song that reflects their thoughts and feelings about their life, to leave behind for family and friends. A beautiful case example is the late Andrew McCutcheon, social change advocate, Methodist pastor, local and state government member, left a song for all Australians. Desperately disappointed about the rejection of the Uluru Statement from the Heart, he wrote a song, with Anneliis, to express his deep wish for a reform, land rights, treaty and reconciliation. The week that he passed his song was played to him. In slow and slurred speech he asked if the song might 'go viral'! At his State funeral his song was performed by Nick Seymour, Anneliis Way and Kelly, and the Uluru Statement from the Heart was unfurled by Thomas Mayor, Chair of the Uluru Convention.

Uluru We follow You can be heard at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2jJO8M1Cw4

The family said that the program 'allowed Dad, Mum and the rest of us to focus on some positive action'. Anneliis' work highlights the importance of creating space for people at all stages of life to have their voice heard and to attend to the whole person. Music has transcended physical limitations and enabled Andrew to spread a final message of hope for justice and healing in indigenous communities.