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Excellence in health care at Hunter New England Area Health Service

NSW Minister for Health, John Della Bosca, today congratulated the Tenterfield Health Service and Hunter New England Area Health Service for their winning entry in the 10th Annual NSW Health Awards held last Friday evening (31 October).

“The NSW Health Awards provide an opportunity to thank all health staff for their outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of the community,” the Minister said.

“In particular I congratulate the Tenterfield Health Service for their work on the *From Little Things Big Things Grow – Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle in a Small Country Community* project through the *Tenterfield-Trim-Taut-Terrific Program*.

“After only three months they achieved their goal of getting the community to collectively lose 1,000 kilograms.

“The project won the Build Regional and Other Partnerships for Health category.

“This project is an excellent example of local government, non-government and community organisations working together to develop programs to educate the community about healthy lifestyles and reducing obesity,” Mr Della Bosca said.

“The NSW Health Awards highlight the talent and passion of health care workers who have developed initiatives to improve the quality of care delivered to patients, the health of the population and performance of the health system in NSW.

“Not only do the Awards recognise hardworking health professionals, including doctors and nurses, they also facilitate the sharing of information and knowledge across the entire health system.

“I was impressed by the high level of innovation, skill and excellence demonstrated by health staff through the NSW Health Awards, which attracted a record level of interest with over 350 local projects reviewed.

“Individuals and teams have worked tirelessly to develop initiatives which address the challenges of the health system and these Awards are a fitting way to acknowledge their achievements,” Mr Della Bosca said.

Hunter New England Health Chief Executive Dr Nigel Lyons said the region was also successful in picking up a number of 2008 NSW Health Performance Awards.

“These achievements reaffirm that staff are always thinking about ways to improve services to our communities,” Dr Lyons said.

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“This is well-deserved recognition for the teams involved and the difference these quality improvement projects are making to our communities,” Dr Lyons said.

The other awards were:

- Hunter New England Health for the Best Health Service Performance ‘Create Better Experiences for People Using Health Services’.
- Hunter New England Health for the Best Health Service Performance ‘Strengthen Primary Health and Continuing Care in the Community’.
- Manning Hospital for The Hospital Performance Award for Best Performance for 2007-08 – Major Non-Metropolitan.
- Kurri Kurri Hospital for The Hospital Performance Award for Best Performance for 2007-08 – Smaller Rural District Hospitals.

For more details on the winners and finalists of the 2008 NSW Health Awards go to www.awards-expo.health.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: Daniel Dew 9228 4777 or 0401 122 951