Jillian Skinner MP
Minister for Health
Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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INNOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT CELEBRATED AT NSW HEALTH AWARDS

Dramatically redesigned food packaging which gives patients greater ease of opening and accessibility to food won the top award for excellence at the NSW Health Awards tonight.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner said *Food Packaging Improvement Project* – a joint HealthShare NSW and Arthritis Australia initiative - won the Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Award for Innovation at a gala dinner at the Sydney Showground tonight.

"I am very proud of this project – it is vital the elderly and those with conditions affecting fine motor skills, such as arthritis, can open or easily access food," Mrs Skinner said.

"Hard-to-open food packaging is not just a source of frustration for patients but a barrier to nutrition – food plays a vital role in assisting patients on the road to recovery.

"HealthShare NSW provides 22 million meals to hospital patients every year. As a result of this initiative NSW Health is the first health system in the world to make easy to open food packaging part of the tender process for our food suppliers."

Mrs Skinner said tonight's annual NSW Health Awards were the 16th in the state's history and continue the focus on delivering innovation right across the health system.

"The NSW Health Awards awards celebrate the excellence of our nurses, clinicians, allied health professionals, support staff and researchers - but they also shine a light on innovation," Mrs Skinner said.

"As I travel the state, I continue to be inspired by the ground-breaking new models of care being developed locally.

"These wonderful ideas harness new technologies and approaches to ensure high quality, world class health care and enable us to deliver the right care at the right time in the right place.

"The beauty of these ideas is they are being taken to the bedside to benefit patients as well as changing ways of working to assist staff."

There were 40 finalists in 13 categories for tonight's awards, with many showcasing their work at the 2014 NSW Health Innovation Symposium earlier in the day.

2014 NSW Health Awards list of finalists and winners

Patients as Partners Award
Winner: **Building our Future Together (Health Infrastructure)**
Finalist: Paediatric Bereavement – The Experience of Families (Sydney Children's Health Network)
Finalist: Yanagagi Numbadil Nurbul – Walking together in friendship (WNSWLHD)

Integrated Health Care Award
Winner: Today is the day that we make tomorrow different (NSW Ambulance)
Finalist: Electronic Chest Pain Pathway (eCPP) in the eMR (ISLHD)
Finalist: Keep Them Safe-Whole Family Teams – An Innovative, Integrated Partnership Approach to Health Care (NSW Ministry of Health)
Finalist: Holistic Health for Mental Health Clients (SLHD)
Finalist: Breaking down silos through integrated care (WNSWLHD)
Finalist: Food Packaging Improvement Project (HealthShareNSW)

Translational Research
Winner: The Australia and New Zealand ED Airway Registry (Northern Sydney LHD)
Finalist: A Safe Benzodiazepine Guideline for Elderly Inpatients (HNELHD)
Finalist: Standing balance classes – improve balance and function for rehabilitation inpatients (SWSLHD)
Finalist: Successful and Innovative State-Wide Evidence Translation: The Quality in Acute Stroke Care Implementation Project (St Vincent's Health Network and NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation)

Local Solutions
Winner: a[TEST]: peer led rapid HIV and STI testing for the gay community (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Finalist: Patient journey boards (CCLHD)
Finalist: Enhanced Scope of Practice Model of Care (MLHD)
Finalist: Point of care testing - 24/7 rural and regional pathology (NSW Health Pathology)
Finalist: The Angelina Effect (ISLHD)

Preventative Health
Winner: A healthy beginning to prevent childhood overweight and obesity in South West Sydney (South Western Sydney LHD)
Finalist: Vaxtracker for National Vaccine Safety Surveillance (HNELHD)
Finalist: Save the Date to Vaccinate Campaign (NSW Ministry of Health)

Collaborative Team Award
Winner: RETRIEVE: safe return of post (PCI) patients (South Western Sydney LHD)
Finalist: Active Kyogle (NNSWLHD)
Finalist: Inter-CAD Electronic Messaging System (NSW Ambulance)
Finalist: Vertebrae Fractures: Rural Management Adaption (MNCLHD)
Finalist: eCommunicating patient feeding assistance needs (SESLHD)

Harry Collins Award
Winner: Let's be free of VRE St George Hospital (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Finalist: In the Hand of Our Clinicians (HNELHD)

Finalist: Kitted out for blood cultures (SWSLHD)

Volunteer of the Year Award
Winner: Mr Lindsay Hewson (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Finalist: Ms Karisha Khalil (SWSLHD)
Finalist: Ms Beatrice Brown (SLHD)
Finalist: Ms Janet Daley (FWLHD)

Staff Member of the Year Award
Winner: Ms Lyn Kramer (Hunter New England LHD)
Finalist: Dr Bethan Leigh Richards (SLHD)
Finalist: Ms Kylie Wright (SWSLHD)

Collaborative Leader of the Year Award
Winner: Mr David Pearce (South Eastern Sydney LHD)
Finalist: Ms Deb Stewart (NSLHD)
Finalist: Dr Paul Byleveld (Health Protection NSW)
Finalist: Ms Karen Smith (WNSWLHD)

NSW Health Secretary Award for Integrated Care
Winner: Breaking down silos through integrated care (Western NSW LHD)

Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research Award for Innovation
Winner: Food Packaging Improvement Project (HealthShare NSW)

Minister for Mental Health Award for Excellence in the Provision of Mental Health Services Winner: Holistic health for mental health clients (Sydney LHD)