



The Hon Kevin Humphries MP

Minister for Mental Health

Minister for Healthy Lifestyles

Minister for Western NSW

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 17 February 2012

BOB FENWICK MEMORIAL GRANTS PROGRAM RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

The Minister for Mental Health, Kevin Humphries, announced the successful recipients of the inaugural Bob Fenwick Memorial Grants Program at a ceremony in Orange today.

Mr Humphries said the program was established in memory of Mr Robert (Bob) Fenwick and recognises his dedicated service to mental health nursing, particularly in regional NSW.

“Mr Fenwick is warmly remembered for the passionate support and assistance he offered to mental health nurses, especially as a mentor,” Mr Humphries said.

“For many years he played a significant role in supporting and fostering the professional development of less experienced mental health nurses.

“This program has been developed as an enduring legacy to Mr Fenwick.”

Through the grant the 13 successful applicants will have the opportunity to:

- Increase their knowledge, competence and confidence in mental health nursing, which will positively impact on their professional practice;
- Expand their professional support networks, which is particularly important for rural and regional mental health nurses, and;
- Experience a different health setting, providing a better understanding of other clinical environments.

“The grants program will provide important learning and development opportunities for regional mental health nurses and further strengthen the high quality care they provide to patients,” Mr Humphries said.

“It is hoped that along with the opportunity to experience mental health nursing in another setting, junior nurses will have the opportunity to establish relationships with a mentor that they can carry throughout their career.”

General Secretary of the NSW Nurses’ Association Brett Holmes said the NSW Nurses’ Association will administer the program on behalf of NSW Health, with both organisations are working collaboratively on this important initiative.

“This program is a fantastic opportunity for the mental health nursing workforce as it will encourage experienced senior mental health nurses to share their real world experience and support less experienced colleagues to further improve mental health service delivery in NSW.”