



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER RECOGNISES EXCELLENCE AT NSW HEALTH AWARDS

An innovative program that empowers renal patients in northern NSW has been awarded the NSW Health Minister's Excellence Award at the NSW Health Awards this evening.

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, tonight rewarded the efforts of staff from the Ballina Renal Service for their project, *Advanced Care Planning in the Ballina Renal Service*.

"The establishment of Advance Care Planning Directives is a very challenging area in healthcare and the process Ballina staff have put in place allows those special conversations to take place with patients, their families and carers.

"Empowering patients and their families to make informed decisions about end of life medical management is a confronting area but the Ballina Renal Service has done a wonderful job by ensuring the needs and wishes of their patients come first," Mrs Skinner said.

The 14th NSW Health Awards were held in Sydney this evening to celebrate and acknowledge excellence in health and innovation across the public health system.

"These awards recognise the outstanding work of our state's doctors, nurses, allied health professionals as well as the hard-working staff who support these teams to save lives and keep the community healthy," Mrs Skinner said.

"This special event is an opportunity for us to applaud innovation in our health sector."

Liverpool Hospital took out the Building the Health Workforce Award for an innovative nursing approach to address neurosurgical patient care issues.

"The Stitch in Time program has seen a non-traditional clinical role for nurses introduced at Liverpool Hospital, which has successfully created positive patient outcomes and greater job satisfaction for the nurses involved," Mrs Skinner said.

This year for the first time, an award for Excellence in Health Education and Training was awarded. The Hunter New England Pharmacy Service was the inaugural winner for enhancing the capacity of the Pharmacy Services across the Hunter district.

There were 160 entries to the awards this year for more than 12 categories, with many of the chosen finalists attending the Innovation Symposium which was held prior to the Awards ceremony.