



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER RECOGNISES HUNTER EXCELLENCE AT NSW HEALTH AWARDS

The Minister for Health and Minister for Medical Research, Jillian Skinner, today congratulated Hunter New England Local Health District for its well-deserved wins at the NSW Health Awards.

The NSW Health Awards, held in Sydney this evening, are an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge excellence in health and innovation across the public health system.

Two Hunter New England programs – *Resi-DENTAL Care* and *Enhancing Clinical Capacity of Hunter New England Pharmacy Services* – took out three awards at the NSW Health Awards tonight.

“These awards recognise the innovative work undertaken by our committed doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and the tremendous staff who support these teams to save lives and keep the community healthy,” Mrs Skinner said.

“Hunter New England recognised a problem when access to dental care for residents of aged-care facilities in the region was deemed difficult and complicated. The LHD created their own local solution, the Resi-DENTAL care program, which brings regular dental services to patients at aged-care facilities.

“The program also provides aged care staff with the tools to perform an oral health assessment, develop an oral health care plan, manage oral hygiene and identify residents requiring dental intervention.

“Hunter New England Health has done a wonderful job with these programs to ensure the health needs of their community come first.”

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.

“This project involved the redesign of pharmacy services to allow local pharmacists more time for direct patient care. This has created better patient outcomes and support for staff performing wider duties,” Mrs Skinner said.

There were 160 entries to the awards this year in more than 12 categories.

“Congratulations to all finalists – this special event is an opportunity for us to applaud your innovation and efforts in our health sector.”