



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 19 October 2012

MINISTER RECOGNISES LOCAL EXCELLENCE AT NSW HEALTH AWARDS

An innovative program that empowers renal patients at Ballina 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.

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

"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."

The Minister for the North Coast and Member for Ballina, Don Page, congratulated staff at the Ballina Renal Service for their well-deserved win.

"This is a real pat on the back for the Ballina Renal Service staff and the wider Local Health District for the emphasis they have put on providing quality care for local patients and their families.

"In what is challenging work, the Ballina Renal Service has designed a local, personalised model of care to ensure patients and their families are comfortable at a difficult time in their lives," Mr Page said.