



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER PRESENTS INAUGURAL NSW AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today presented the inaugural *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* in a ceremony at Parliament House.

Mrs Skinner presented awards to the 11 winners and 17 finalists in the awards, including the Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award, named in honour of the state's first Chief Nurse.

"We are indebted as a society to the 47,500 skilled, dedicated nurses and midwives who are the very heart of our health system," Mrs Skinner said.

"Each day, every day, they deliver high quality care and compassion to the people of NSW. And from today - with the inception of these inaugural awards - we can publicly acknowledge those among them who are considered excellent by their peers, patients and the community - and who are judged by a highly-credentialled panel to be at the top of their profession.

"On behalf of the people of NSW I congratulate them - and I thank them."

Nominations for the inaugural *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* were invited in 10 categories:

- Excellence in Nursing - Registered Nurse
- Excellence in Midwifery - Registered Midwife
- Excellence in Nursing - Enrolled Nurse
- Excellence in Nursing - Assistant in Nursing.
- Excellence in Leadership.
- Excellence in Education, Research and Innovation.
- Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care.
- Excellence in Partnerships with Patients, Families and Carers.
- Excellence in Team Clinical Practice.
- Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award.

(* Full list of winners and finalists attached.)

The Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award was awarded to Professor Kaye Spence for 35 years' work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Service at the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Judith Meppem - the state's first Chief Nurse, serving in the role between 1990 and 2002 – attended the ceremony.

Mrs Skinner said the inaugural *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* was an opportunity to thank the state's nurses and midwives.

"Prior to coming to government in March 2011, we promised to increase the nursing and midwifery workforce by 2,475 over four years," Mrs Skinner said.

"We met this milestone in half that time. There are now 4,100 more nurses and midwives employed (by headcount and over 2,800 full-time equivalent) in the NSW health system

"I thank each of our 47,500 nurses and midwives for delivering the highest quality of care to patients across our state."

NSW Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Susan Pearce said she is delighted NSW now has a dedicated awards for nurses and midwives, bringing it in line with other Australian states and territories, as well as the United Kingdom, Canada and many states in the United States.

Ms Pearce said nurses and midwives make an enormous difference to the lives of patients and their families, many of whom they encounter at times of distress and despair.

"Our dedicated nurses and midwives provide care to the 1.5 million people admitted to our hospitals each year, as well as many others who receive help at home and in the community," she said.

Winners and Finalists - *NSW Health Awards for Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery*

Excellence in Nursing – Registered Nurse

Billie McHutchison, Campbelltown Hospital SWSLHD – **Winner**

Cathy Clarkson, Sydney Children's Hospital Randwick SCHN – Finalist

Alison Wolstenholme, Port Macquarie Base Hospital MNCLHD – Finalist

Excellence in Midwifery – Registered Midwife

Kate Dove, Campbelltown Hospital SWSLHD – **Dual Winner**

Frances Guy, MNCLHD – **Dual Winner**

Clare Burke, Moruya Hospital SNSWLHD – Finalist

Excellence in Nursing – Enrolled Nurse

Angela Hand, Children's Hospital at Westmead SCHN – **Winner**

Kelly Harrison, Nepean Hospital NBMLHD – Finalist

Debbie Rogers, Cootamundra Health Service MLHD – Finalist

Excellence in Nursing – Assistant in Nursing

Jocelyn Leyshan, Westmead Hospital WSLHD - **Winner**

Dianne Downton, Orange Health Service WNSWLHD – Finalist

Rodney Palmer, Camden Hospital SWSLHD – Finalist

Excellence in Leadership

Melissa Cumming, FWLHD – **Winner**
Dale Sutton, FWLHD – Finalist
Dorothy Hughes, Queanbeyan Hospital SNSWLHD – Finalist

Excellence in Education, Research and Innovation

Scott Brunero, Prince of Wales Hospital SESLHD – **Winner**
Scott Lamont, Prince of Wales Hospital SESLHD – Finalist
Ian Whiteley, Concord Repatriation General Hospital SLHD – Finalist

Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care

Karen Griffin, Wagga Wagga Base Hospital MLHD – **Winner**

Excellence in Partnerships with Patients, Families and Carers

Jocelyn McLean, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital SLHD – **Winner**
Helen Hilton, MLHD – Finalist
Michelle O’Hearn, Concord Repatriation General Hospital SLHD – Finalist

Excellence in Team Clinical Practice

Malabar Midwifery Service, Royal Hospital for Women SESLHD – **Winner**
Shellharbour Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit ISLHD– Finalist
St George Hospital Palliative Care Consultative Service, St George Hospital SESLHD
– Finalist

Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award

Kaye Spence, Children’s Hospital at Westmead SCHN - **Winner**
Margaret Evans, Royal Hospital for Women SESLHD - Finalist
Carol Horan, Coonamble Health Service WNSWLHD – Finalist