



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER PRESENTS NSW AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

Some of the state's most skilled and dedicated nurses and midwives were today honoured for their outstanding contribution to health care in NSW.

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

Mrs Skinner congratulated the 11 award winners and 22 finalists who were chosen from more than 150 nominees.

Among the recipients was Catherine Bateman, a Clinical Nurse Consultant from the Southern NSW Local Health District who was awarded the Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award. Ms Meppem was the state's first Chief Nurse, serving in the role between 1990 and 2002.

Mrs Skinner said it was an honour to present the *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* for a second year.

"Our nurses and midwives deliver high quality care at our hospitals, in the community and the home," Mrs Skinner said.

"They make an enormous difference to the lives of their patients and their patients' loved ones, not just through their clinical skill but their compassionate and good-natured devotion to their duties.

"There are few professions more highly valued by the community than nursing and midwifery.

"Today we publicly thank each one of the state's 48,000 nurses and midwives and honour those among them who are considered excellent by patients, colleagues and the community and who are judged by an esteemed panel to be leaders in their profession," Mrs Skinner said.

Nominations for second annual *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* were invited in 11 categories:

- Excellence in Nursing - Registered Nurse
- Excellence in Midwifery - Registered Midwife
- Excellence in Nursing - Enrolled Nurse
- Excellence in Nursing/Midwifery - Assistant in Nursing/Assistant in Midwifery
- Excellence in Leadership

- Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Care
- Excellence in Innovation - Education
- Excellence in Innovation - Research
- Excellence in Nursing/Midwifery - Graduate
- Consumer Appreciation Award
- Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award

NSW Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Susan Pearce said the second annual *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* is an opportunity to reflect on the vital role nurses and midwives play in the community.

“Over 5,600 people are admitted to NSW hospitals each day - or almost two million people per year,” Ms Pearce said.

“Our nurses and midwives deliver care to all, without the expectation of awards and honours, but this annual awards ceremony is highly valued nonetheless.”

Prior to coming to government in March 2011, the NSW Liberals & Nationals promised to increase the nursing and midwifery workforce by 2,475 over four years.

With over six months of the four-year term to run, there are over 4,600 extra nurses and midwives (by headcount; 3,400 full-time equivalent) employed in the NSW health system - taking the total workforce to over 48,000.