



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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2014 NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH AWARDS FINALISTS

Health Minister Jillian Skinner today announced the finalists in the 2014 NSW Aboriginal Health Awards.

The winners of 11 awards will be announced at a ceremony in Sydney on November 13.

“I congratulate all finalists and applaud their determined efforts to close the health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The finalists work across the broad spectrum of Aboriginal health, from early childhood speech pathology services, to Hepatitis C initiatives, weight loss and maintenance, tobacco, mental health, research and gynaecological programs.

“They have excelled in program design and innovation and focused on projects that recruit, skill and retain Aboriginal health workers, including programs that offer post graduate scholarships in population health and training for mental health workers.” Mrs Skinner said the awards align closely with the objectives of the *NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013-2023*, which was launched by the NSW Liberals & Nationals Government to close the health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

“The 2014 NSW Aboriginal Health Awards are showcasing some fantastic initiatives and proving that, through commitment and innovation, it’s possible to overcome the hurdles to closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people,” she said.

Nominations for the awards were open to any health agency in NSW - including Local Health Districts (LHDs) - as well as private and non-government sector services.

Eight of the 11 awards feature finalists. The recipients of the three other awards will be announced on the night - NSW Minister for Health Award, NSW Health Secretary Award for Aboriginal Health and the Hall of Fame Award.

To learn more about the 2014 NSW Aboriginal Health Awards, go to <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aboriginal/Pages/awards.aspx>

2014 NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH AWARDS FINALISTS

Building Trust through Partnerships

- Kiah Preschool Speech Pathology Service (HNELHD - Moree)
- A Three-Way Whole of Health Aboriginal Health Partnership Agreement and Plan: A combination for success on the Central Coast NSW (CCLHD).
- Working in partnerships to develop a culturally appropriate Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project (SWSLHD and SLHD).

Building Evidence & Research

- The Deadly Liver Mob - Yarning-Up Hep C in Aboriginal Networks (WSLHD).
- Evaluation of the 2013 NSW Knockout Health Challenge (Developed by the NSW Ministry of Health, Agency for Clinical Innovation and NSW Office of Preventative Health).
- The Gudaga Research Program (SWSLHD - Macarthur region, Campbelltown).

Integrated Planning & Delivery

- Aboriginal Specific Outpatient Alcohol Withdrawal (SLHD - for Illawarra region).
- Close the Gap on Go4Fun (NNSWLHD).
- Empowering Aboriginal Women to Access Colposcopy and Gynaecology services in Rural and Remote NSW (Western NSW LHD - Orange).

Aboriginal Workforce

- Aboriginal Careers in Mental Health (ACIMH) in the Community Managed Mental Health Sector.
- Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative "Growing our Own" Aboriginal Health Worker Training Program (WNSWLHD).

Culturally Safe Work Environments & Health Services

- Aboriginal Identification in Hospital Quality Improvement Project.
- "Respecting the Difference" Cultural Considerations (MLHD).
- Respecting the Difference: Joining of Two Spirits (Justice Health).

Performance Monitoring, Management & Accountability

- The Aboriginal Oral Health Hub and Spoke Program (Sydney Dental Hospital outreach to remote areas of NSW).
- A Framework for Ensuring Aboriginal Health is a Priority for SWSLHD hospitals (SWSLHD).
- Mid North Coast Aboriginal Health Report Card: Our Journey (MNCLHD).

Quiet Achiever

- Ian (Joe) Miller (HNELHD - Tamworth).
- Linda Soars (SESLHD - St George and Sutherland communities).
- Victor Tawill (Centre for Population Health, Ministry of Health).

Gail May Award

- Daniel Kelly - Balranald Aboriginal Health Service (FWLHD).
- Nicole Turner - Go4Fun (HNELHD).
- Samantha Knight (SESLHD - St George Sutherland region).