



Jillian Skinner MP

Minister for Health Minister for Medical Research

MEDIA RELEASE

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CLOSING THE GAP: 2014 NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH AWARD WINNERS HONOURED

The winners of the 2014 NSW Aboriginal Health Awards were honoured last night at a ceremony in Sydney.

Health Minister Jillian Skinner presented awards to recipients in 11 categories whose clever, effective initiatives are helping to close the health gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

“The determination and expertise of the award winners shines through the diversity of projects honoured, from a tobacco control project to an initiative which empowers Aboriginal women to access colposcopy and gynaecology services in rural NSW,” Mrs Skinner said.

The *Working in Partnerships to develop a culturally appropriate Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project* was the only entrant to win two accolades - the Minister of Health Award and the Building Trust Through Partnerships Award.

Developed by representatives from three Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and the South West Sydney Local Health District and Sydney Local Health District, the project aims to lower smoking rates in Aboriginal communities in south western Sydney.

“With smoking rates among adult Aboriginal people more than double those in the non-Aboriginal population, this initiative is tackling one of the key health concerns in the Aboriginal community,” Mrs Skinner said.

“The project has already shown to have encouraged 71.5 per cent of smokers to consider quitting within six months.

“This is just one of the exciting initiatives we’re celebrating that promise to make a real difference to the health and well-being of our Aboriginal population.”

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Victor Dominello said the award winners exemplify the tireless dedication of Aboriginal health workers across the state.

“The 2014 Awards provide an opportunity to recognise the achievements of groups across NSW which support the NSW Government’s commitment to closing the gap, detailed in the *NSW Aboriginal Health Plan 2013-2023*,” Mr Dominello said.

“Thanks to the hard work and commitment demonstrated by all the winners, we are seeing real and heartening progress towards improving the health outcomes for Aboriginal people right across NSW.”

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

WINNERS - 2014 NSW ABORIGINAL HEALTH AWARDS

Building Trust through Partnerships

- Working in partnerships to develop a culturally appropriate Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project (SWSLHD and SLHD).

Building Evidence & Research

- The Gudaga Research Program (SWSLHD - Macarthur region, Campbelltown)

Integrated Planning & Delivery

- Aboriginal Specific Outpatient Alcohol Withdrawal (SLHD - for Illawarra region)

Aboriginal Workforce

- Aboriginal Population Health Training Initiative - NSW Ministry of Health

Culturally Safe Work Environments & Health Services

- Respecting the Difference: Joining of Two Spirits (Justice Health)

Performance Monitoring, Management & Accountability

- A Framework for Ensuring Aboriginal Health is a Priority for SWSLHD hospitals (SWSLHD).

Quiet Achiever

- Ian (Joe) Miller (HNELHD - Tamworth).

Gail May Award

- Nicole Turner - Go4Fun (HNELHD).

Hall of Fame

- Sandra Bailey - CEO, Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council

NSW Health Secretary's Award for Aboriginal Health

- Empowering Aboriginal Women to Access Colposcopy and Gynaecology Services in Rural and Remote NSW (Western NSW LHD - Orange).

Minister of Health Award

- Working in partnerships to develop a culturally appropriate Aboriginal Tobacco Control Project (SWSLHD and SLHD).