



Jillian Skinner
Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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EXCEPTIONAL NURSES AND MIDWIVES HONOURED

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

Health Minister Jillian Skinner presented the third annual *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* at a ceremony in Parliament House. The 11 award winners and 24 finalists were selected from a record field of 239 nominees.

One of the prizes - the Consumer Appreciation Award - was presented by Louisa Hope, a survivor of the Lindt café siege.

Ms Hope, who has multiple sclerosis, was shot in the foot during the police operation which ended December's siege. She spent several months recovering in hospital before establishing the Louisa Hope Grant for Nurses fund with \$25,000 she received for a TV interview. The NSW Government matched her donation.

"My time in hospital made me appreciate just how vital our nurses are to recovery. Their caring professionalism and patient encouragement made all the difference to my progress," Ms Hope said.

Mrs Skinner said: "Today we congratulate nurses and midwives judged as outstanding among their peers.

"Today is also a time to thank the 49,000 nurses and midwives who care for the over two million patients admitted into our public hospitals each year, and many thousands more who receive their care in the community."

NSW Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Susan Pearce added her praise, saying: "Our hospitals and services would not run as well as they do without the high standard of care and commitment shown by our nursing and midwifery staff."

Nominations for the *NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards* were invited in 11 categories, one of which - the Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award - honours the state's first Chief Nurse, who served from 1990 to 2002.

2015 Excellence in Nursing & Midwifery Awards – Winner & Finalist List

JUDITH MEPPM LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD			
Sandra Bredemeyer	Winner	RPA Hospital	SLHD
Angela Newton	Finalist	Armidale Hospital	HNELHD
Vicki Manning	Finalist	St George Hospital	SESLHD
EXCELLENCE IN NURSING – REGISTERED NURSE			
Judith Fraser	Winner	Drug & Alcohol Services	NBMLHD
Deb French	Finalist	Griffith Hospital	MLHD
Lisa Bennett	Finalist	Sydney Home Nursing Hornsby	NSLHD
EXCELLENCE IN MIDWIFERY – REGISTERED MIDWIFE			
Fiona Simpson	Winner	Kempsey District Hospital	MNCLHD
Gwen Moody	Finalist	Westmead Hospital	WSLHD
Alede Marial Takpiny	Finalist	Westmead Hospital	WSLHD
EXCELLENCE IN NURSING – ENROLLED NURSE			
Carmel Byfield	Winner	Armidale Hospital	HNELHD
Belinda Sidman	Finalist	Bowral & District Hospital	SWSLHD
Alice Davies	Finalist	Walgett MPS	WNSWLHD
EXCELLENCE IN NURSING/MIDWIFERY – ASSISTANT IN NURSING/MIDWIFERY			
Tracy Mrcic	Winner	Wollongong Hospital	ISLHD
Meenakshi (Meetu) Baveja	Finalist	SCH Westmead	SCHN
Amanpreet Kaur	Finalist	Blacktown Hospital	WSLHD
EXCELLENCE IN NURSING/MIDWIFERY – LEADERSHIP			
Cathy Adams	Winner	RNS Hospital	NSLHD
Katie-Marie Croad	Finalist	Kempsey District Hospital	MNCLHD
Gillian Blanchard	Finalist	Calvary Mater Hospital	HNELHD
Craig Wainwright	Finalist	Liverpool Hospital	SWSLHD
EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION – EDUCATION			
Nadine Griffiths	Winner	SCH Westmead	SCHN
Krista Mitchell	Finalist	Gundagai District Hospital	MLHD
Sharon Whalley	Finalist	Community & Allied Health, Richmond Network	NNSWLHD
EXCELLENCE IN INNOVATION – RESEARCH			
Kate Curtis	Winner	St George Hospital	SESLHD
Joanne Rowley	Finalist	Coffs Harbour Health Campus	MNCLHD
Ian Whiteley	Finalist	Concord Repat Hospital	SLHD
EXCELLENCE IN ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HEALTHCARE			
Mary-Anne Dieckmann	Winner	Tamworth Rural Referral	HNELHD
Pamela Paltridge	Finalist	JH Children's Hospital	HNELHD
Gladys Wilson	Finalist	Aboriginal Health Unit	NSLHD
EXCELLENCE IN NURSING/MIDWIFERY – GRADUATE			
Alyssa Fraser	Winner	SCH Westmead	SCHN
Jessinta Williams	Finalist	SCH Westmead	SCHN
Kellie Piper	Finalist	Gundagai District Hospital	MLHD
Roni Hatava	Finalist	Liverpool Hospital	SWSLHD
CONSUMER APPRECIATION AWARD			
Elizabeth Dolan	Winner	Lismore Base Hospital	NNSWLHD
Frankie Morgan	Finalist	RPA Hospital	SLHD
Margaret Crowley	Finalist	Dubbo Outreach Clinic	WNSWLHD