



Media Release

THE HUNTER AGED CARE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS' FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

Thirty-two of the Hunter's most outstanding aged care workers and volunteers have been announced as finalists for the inaugural Hunter Aged Care Achievement Awards.

The Hunter Aged Care Achievement Awards aim to recognise everyday heroes currently working in the aged care industry in the Hunter region who shine in their commitment to providing excellence in care and show a passion for the older person as part of their everyday work.

The finalists come from a variety of aged care organisations operating, and were judged against hundreds of nominees by an independent panel of aged care professionals.

Judge Professor Isabel Higgins said the panel were overwhelmed with the number of people nominated for these awards.

"It was rewarding to see the huge number of volunteers, aged care workers and nurses whose care for older people is recognised widely by colleagues, peers, family and community members. That there were so many nominations for each of the categories made it challenging to single individuals. Everyone was absolutely deserving of recognition and congratulations."

The awards are an initiative of CatholicCare Hunter Manning, whose CEO Joseph McCarthy saw a need to highlight excellence in care in the region and acknowledge staff from all sectors of the aged care industry who do such a wonderful job on a daily basis and affect so many lives with their compassionate care.

Mr McCarthy said it was great to see so many people nominated.

"It's wonderful to see a lot of the aged care providers in our region jump on board and nominate their staff who deserve to be recognised for their hard work. What's even more wonderful is knowing residents and their families have the opportunity to pay tribute to aged care workers by nominating and it seems like a lot have done so," he said.

All finalists will be presented with a trophy and certificate before the winner of each category is announced at the official Hunter Aged Care Achievement Awards Presentation Dinner at Noah's on the Beach on August 12.

The guest speaker on the night will be former Deputy Premier of NSW and now CEO of Alzheimer's Australia NSW, The Hon. John Watkins.

For more information about the evening or to arrange an interview with any of the finalists, please contact Marketing & Communications Manager Emma Blackford **on 0408 292 355**.

Please see the full list of finalists on the attached page.

Finalists
Hunter Aged Care Achievement Awards 2010

Aged Care, Volunteer of the Year

Mary Case	CatholicCare- St Francis Village, Eleebana
John & Keryn Leonard	Community Visitors Scheme- Tanilba Shores Village, Tanilba Bay
Geoff Lewis	Uniting Care Elizabeth Gates - Singleton
Alan Reay	Maroba - Waratah
Jean Wall	Calvary Retirement Community - Cessnock

Aged Care, Trainee of the Year

Stephanie Bee	BUPA Care – Waratah
Nicole Hawker	CatholicCare – St Josephs, Sandgate
Belinda Sheather	CatholicCare - Ironbark House, Sandgate
Tracey Thompson	CatholicCare - Mt Providence Village, Muswellbrook

Aged Care, Care Staff of the Year- Residential Aged Care

Joanne Braun	Maitland Nursing Home - Rutherford
Sally Bard	CatholicCare - Mt Carmel Village, Maitland
Rebecca Brown	Fronithra Hippocrates Aged Care — Mayfield
Melissa Mason	Maroba— Waratah
Beth Beveridge	CatholicCare - St Josephs, Sandgate

Aged Care, Allied Health Professional of the Year

Kim Broadhurst	Hunter New England Health - New Lambton
Leanne Fair	Anglican Care - Booragul
Bruce Thompson	Anglican Care - Booragul
Jennifer Cramp	CatholicCare - Ironbark House
Teresa Brown	CatholicCare- St Francis Village. Eleebana

Aged Care, CALD Contributor of the Year

Rasa Bajalis	CatholicCare - Sandgate
Connie DeAntonis	Maroba - Waratah
Basia Pinkowski	CatholicCare - Sandgate
Alexandria Popescu	CatholicCare - Sandgate

Aged Care, Registered Nurse of the Year

Donna Clucas	CatholicCare, Newcastle
Gail Gilson	Maroba - Waratah
Celia Howells	Catholic Care - Ironbark house, Sandgate
Debbie Laver	Maroba - Waratah
Kathy Yorke	Maroba - Waratah

Aged Care, Care Staff of the Year- Community Aged Care

Margaret Cizek	CatholicCare - Sandgate
James Heslop	CatholicCare - Sandgate
Giorgia Kalliafas	CatholicCare - Sandgate
Peta Peters	CatholicCare - Sandgate
Ann Simms	CatholicCare - Sandgate