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For immediate release

RDNS celebrates its night of stars

RDNS (Royal District Nursing Service) has celebrated the outstanding efforts of staff at their annual Staff Achievement Awards.

The awards scheme encourages RDNS staff to celebrate the contribution of their peers across a variety of areas.

Over 450 staff attended the awards evening at the Hilton in central Melbourne to recognise exceptional staff efforts in five categories: the Graduate Nurse Award, the Beyond the Call of Duty Award, the Client Care Award, the Leadership Award and the Star Performer Award.

CEO Stephen Muggleton acknowledged the hard work and dedication of all staff throughout the year.

“Each year, you are collectively responsible for major improvements to the quality of life and independence of many, many thousands of clients and their families.

“These awards continue to affirm that high quality of care that you provide, the inspiring level of compassion that accompanies it and the fierce dedication with which you undertake your daily work,” he said.

Graduate Nurse Award

This award recognises the importance of RDNS' Graduate Nurse Program and the substantial contribution Graduate Nurses make each year.

Bianca Nash from Essendon was announced as the winner.

Bianca's enthusiasm for her role has seen her grasp responsibility for her personal and professional development. Throughout the year she has developed the skills and confidence to work as an autonomous and highly capable practitioner who pursues best practice. She impressed all with her ability to articulate her thoughts and communicates easily with clients, colleagues and other healthcare professionals.

Client Care Award (3 awards)

Awards are given to staff members who have demonstrated outstanding care and compassion towards RDNS clients, their carers and/or families which promotes, inspires and facilitates compassionate community care.

Ollie Kapranov from RDNS Berwick, Julie Martin from RDNS Caulfield Margaret Sammut from RDNS Essendon were announced as winners.

Ollie Kapranov brings a 'new set of eyes' when dealing with clients, making changes with clients that have previously been thought to be difficult to achieve or even impossible. She is passionate, eager and an ardent practitioner of the Active Service Model, believing that a client's dignity sits within their own sense of involvement in their situation.

Julie Martin is described as a highly committed, professional, caring and compassionate nurse who is always striving for the best possible outcome for her clients, their families and carers. Her recent work with a complex, at risk client was an example to all, with Julie being lauded as an exceptional role model.

Margaret Sammut is a nurse whose guiding principle is upholding the dignity of her clients. She is an astute and highly observant nurse, whose eye for detail regarding her client's situation leads her to often subtle but highly impactful actions on their behalf.

Beyond the Call of Duty Award

This award is given for an extraordinary act of going 'beyond the call of duty' in the course of one's work.

Michelle Clancy from RDNS Rosebud was announced as the winner.

Michelle has been described as a nurse who constantly goes above the call of duty in providing care to palliative care clients, as well as support to their families and to RDNS staff. She is regularly the key support for clients and their families as they battle the daunting and often dark reality of their situation, bringing light, humility, strength and healing to all those she has contact with. She is, as her nomination states a 'special friend' to so many throughout the RDNS community, whose 'impact on team morale cannot be underestimated.'

Leadership Award

This award has an emphasis on leadership, whether that is of people, programs, projects or specialities.

Robynn Daley from RDNS Essendon was presented with this award.

In her role as Operations Manager at Essendon and for regional Victoria, Robynn has been a consistent leader of staff as they seek to develop professionally and personally. She is a constant source of support and assistance for staff in their quest to reach their potential and is known for her active listening and considered opinions and guidance. Robynn's nomination notes that she a 'true leader', bringing out the best in the people around her, a setter of high standards and an example of excellence.

Star Performer Award

This award is given to a staff member who has displayed outstanding service. Someone who has demonstrated integrity, professionalism, ability to draw respect from colleagues and clients or customers alike, and who has shown an on-going and inspirational commitment to RDNS and the community we serve.

The winner of the Star Performer Award for 2011 is Kylie Elder from RDNS Moreland.

From the outset, Kylie has been central to success of the Connected Wound Care Project, a major government funded initiative designed to improve the standard of wound care across Victoria via educational material for nurses and clients. Kylie played a lead role in the project, developing key partnerships with the Department of Health, regional wound care consultants and multiple contactors and service providers.

As a result of Kylie's, skill, determination and perseverance, the project has delivered a superior suite of nine wound care guides and a Diabetes Foot Resource Kit, delivered to over 250 agencies across Victoria and now in use by RDNS nurses, regional district nursing service and regional Public Sector Residential Aged care facilities.

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