Media release

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Queensland’s aged care industry excellence recognised at Awards

The outstanding achievements of the aged care industry in Queensland were recognised at Leading Age Services Australia’s Queensland 2017 Excellence in Care Awards, sponsored by Hesta and McCullough Robertson, on 30 March 2017.

LASA CEO Sean Rooney said the achievements by individuals and organisations highlighted the dedication of an industry passionate about providing quality care for older Australians living in Queensland.

“Our industry has countless unassuming professionals, volunteers and organisations who don’t generally look for thanks or praise. It is the dedication and professionalism of these individuals and organisations that make up the backbone of our industry,” Mr Rooney said.

“The Queensland awards celebrate significant contributions to improving the quality of life of older Australians and acknowledge the efforts to increase public confidence and community involvement in aged and community care.

“I congratulate all the nominees, finalists and winners of LASA’s 2017 Excellence in Care Awards for their outstanding efforts and contributions they make daily, not only to our industry, but to the lives of the older Australians they care for,” Mr Rooney said.

LASA’s 2017 Excellence in Care Awards have promoted and recognised excellence across all fields of Queensland’s aged care industry. The four award categories include: Organisation, Team, Individual and Volunteer.

Darling Downs regional aged care provider Beauaraba Living won the Organisation Award for its focus on promoting resident wellbeing and quality of life through a culture of inclusiveness, fun and positivity. Centacare Community Services and Killarney Memorial Aged Care were finalists in the Organisation Award category.

Beauaraba Living, a 106 bed aged care home in Pittsworth, provides compassionate and personalised care through community, respite and residential services while supporting care recipients’ sense of independence and dignity.

Beauaraba’s successful “Living Life” program and model of care ensures that every resident is treated as a valued member of their community and consists of Montessori, comfort care, music and memory, letters of love, training and education. The program has seen dramatic improvements in clinical results and the health and wellbeing of their residents.

Killarney Memorial Aged Care (KMAC) received the Team Award honouring its achievement in unifying its local and regional community to support the service in its expansion and development. Noosa Care Catering Team was a finalist and a special mention went to Stay Standing Falls Prevention Team at Jubilee Community Care.
KMAC is a community owned and run organisation with a very active auxiliary comprising 40 community volunteers. It is also the largest employer in the area.

The organisation has overcome many challenges ranging from not having a local doctor, to seeking allied health services from surrounding townships. The most difficult challenge was changing the resident and community perceptions of aged care. Through the generous financial support of its local community, KMAC are in the process of building a bigger aged care facility with additional allied health rooms to meet community needs.

**Noosa Care’s Sandra Gilbert** won the *Individual Award* for her passion and aged care professionalism, but more importantly her tireless devotion to residents with dementia. **Marie Gawk of RSL Care Fairview** and **Liz Maloney of Cabanda Care** were finalists in the Individual Award category.

Sandra’s dedication and advocacy has led to the development of dementia friendly environments at Noosa Care. Sandra is an inspiration to many of her colleagues and in a climate of significant reform, she has embraced aged care changes with optimism and positivity.

**RSL Care Carrington** volunteer Stan Banasiak is the deserving winner of the *Volunteer Award*. The category finalists were **Sundale’s Michael Greenough** and **Andrew and Betty Bannerman from Sundale Bindaree**.

Aged care facilities around Australia generally have a higher proportion of women residents to men – Stan saw this as an opportunity and recognised the need for a Men’s Club.

Stan went about creating a Men’s Club to meet the social needs of the male population of Carrington and now the group is full to capacity. The club is becoming so popular that men refuse to go anywhere else on a Friday, simply because they prefer to go to “Men’s Club”.

LASA’s 2017 Excellence in Care Award nominations were reviewed by a panel of industry experts. LASA would like to thank all the judges for their time and dedication to recognising the difference individuals and organisations are making to Queensland’s aged care sector.

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