



Media Release

2009 Best Practice Nurse Awards call for nominations

The Australian Practice Nurses Association is proud to announce that nominations for the 2009 APNA Best Practice Awards are now open. With five award categories the APNA Best Practice Awards aim to recognise and reward extraordinary nurses working in general practice.

Anne Matyear, APNA President, says "Practice nurses are a pivotal part in making sure people in the community have access to quality health care. They deliver preventative strategies to patients, and in doing so are able to reduce the pressure on GP's. They are now a key member of the health team in 60 percent of general practices around Australia. The APNA Practice Nursing awards strive to recognise these highly valued nurses for their contribution to the wellbeing of our community."

In 2009 five awards are on offer, with prizes to the value of \$5,000 for the winner to use in enhancing their continuing professional development.

The categories open for nomination are:

1. **Best Practice Award for Innovation to Nursing in General Practice - Merck Sharp and Dohme**
2. **Best Practice Award for Chronic Disease Management - GlaxoSmithKline**
3. **Best Practice Award for Immunisation - CSL Biotherapies**
4. **Best Practice Award for Women's Health – Blackmores**
5. **Best Practice Award for Quality Improvement- AGPAL**

Previous recipients have used their monetary prize to undertake work experience and education in both local and international locations.

Heather Scott, last year's winner of the GSK Best Practice Award for Chronic Disease Management, traveled to the UK to attend the Nursing in Practice conference as well as spend a day in a London general practice

"I felt so proud to win the award and have recognition from my peers. Winning the award allowed me to travel to the UK where I observed the role of the practice nurses and how they work in chronic disease management in the UK. The award also enabled me to attend local nursing conferences where I was able to network with my peers and attend presentations on a broad range of issues relevant to the current practice nursing landscape."

For details on how you can nominate yourself or to find out how GPs/practice managers can nominate their practice nurse, they can go to the APNA website at www.apna.asn.au or call us on (03) 9614 7777.

APNA is a vibrant and dynamic association with 1500 members and growing. We provide practice nurses with a voice in policy decision making about this fast evolving role, access to a range of specific information, resources, education and provide support and networking for practice nurses at national, state and local levels.

Nominations close 5.00pm 25th September 2009

For enquiries regarding this media release, please contact the Chief Executive Officer Belinda Caldwell on (03) 9614 7777 or 0433801045.