AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MENTAL HEALTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

SERVICE & MEDIA AWARDS
2010

SYDNEY CONVENTION CENTRE
NEW SOUTH WALES

Funded By
The Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing
&
The New Zealand Health Funding Authority
2010 Achievement Awards - Sydney
## AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE AWARDS

Presented By: Senator Claire Moore, Senator for Queensland and Chair of the Senate Community Affairs Committee

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2010 Achievement Awards - Sydney
CATEGORY 6  MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION OR MENTAL ILLNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM OR PROJECT

Gold Award: University of Melbourne Mental Health Strategy, VIC  
Silver Award: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training and Research Program, ACT  
Special Judges Award: Inner City Mental Health Recovery Working Party, Surry Hills, NSW  

CATEGORY 7  E-HEALTH SERVICES

Gold Award: The VirtualClinic, Darlinghurst, NSW  
Silver Award: The ECCO Project, Canberra, ACT  

CATEGORY 8  SPECIALIST SERVICE OR PART OF A LARGER SERVICE

Gold Award: The Helping Young People Early (HYPE) Program Parkville, VIC  
Joint Silver Award: Community Conservation Corps Trust: Work Readiness Initiative, Auckland, New Zealand  
Joint Silver Award: The Mental Health and Sexual Assault Project, Parramatta, NSW  

AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE IN AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND

Winner: Isabell Collins, Melbourne, VIC  

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MENTAL HEALTH MEDIA AWARDS

Background  

CATEGORY  BROADCAST MEDIA
Winner: Cath South and Stewart Carter  
KIDS’ BUSINESS
People Pictures  

CATEGORY  PRINT MEDIA
Winner: Danny Lannen  
GEELONG’S JOURNEY
Geelong Advertiser, VIC  

CATEGORY  SPECIAL MEDIA AWARD – RURAL FOCUS
Joint Winner: Sarah Quinton  
‘The black day farmer John hit the dirt’ and ‘Many pathways to depression but what is the way back?’
The West Australian Newspaper, WA  

CATEGORY  SPECIAL MEDIA AWARD – RURAL FOCUS
Joint Winner: Samuel Watson and Karen Dorante  
‘Cape York Health Promotions Project – Suicide Prevention in Cape York’s Remote Indigenous Communities’
Brisbane Indigenous Media Association, QLD  

Assessment Committee Members (Service and Media Awards)  
2010 Achievement Awards - Sydney
BACKGROUND
The Mental Health Service Award program began in 1992. It is designed to reward and publicise services that have shown innovation and excellence. The program is not an exhaustive or fully objective measure of the best services in Australia or New Zealand, as it depends on services deciding to apply and the information they supply. Apart from the written material supplied, we do contact people who are likely to know if a service is genuine. Six panels, drawn from different disciplines including consumer and carer organisations assessed the applications. The panels are geographically spread around Australia and New Zealand. The Awards Committee may also score the entries, when necessary, e.g. if there is a conflict of interest.

A. SERVICE AND PROGRAM AWARDS
The applications were rated on the following criteria:
1. Evidence that the program has made a significant contribution to the field of mental health on a local, state or national level.
2. Evidence that the program is doing something innovative or is maintaining high standards of service.
3. Evidence that the program has encouraged and supported the participation of consumers, family members and/or carers in the planning, implementation and evaluation of mental health service delivery. In category 2 it must be demonstrated that consumers are the major stakeholders and in category 3 that carers/families are the major stakeholders in the development and ongoing decision making of the program.
4. Verification of the program’s effectiveness (quality assurance measures, utilisation review, outcome evaluations etc). Programs can sound good, but we want to know that they achieve a high quality. Provide clear qualitative and quantitative evidence. Demonstrate that a high quality has been achieved.
5. Award potential or feeling factor, as certain things come across in submissions that are hard to quantify within the above criteria.

In 2010 there were 48 applications received for the following categories:
1. Non Government Organisation (NGO) Provided Services
2. Consumer Provided Services
3. Family/Carer Provided Services
4. Regional/Rural and/or Remote Services or Programs
5. Infant, Child And Adolescent Services or Programs
6. Mental Health Promotion or Mental Illness Prevention Program or Project.
7. e-health Services
8. Specialist Service or Part of a Larger Service

B. EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND

These awards are made possible by generous grants from the Australian and New Zealand Governments in recognition of the importance they give to the development of best practice services throughout the two countries. This award program contributes to publicising the good work being done in an environment where only bad news seems to appear in the media. The following pages give you the contact details for the services and a short summary of their activities. You are encouraged to contact them and to visit their services.
CATEGORY 1
NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION (NGO) PROVIDED SERVICES

GOLD AWARD: WINNER $2,000

APPLYING SERVICE: Refugee Community Link Workers, Auckland Regional Refugee Mobile Team (RMT)

ORGANISATION: RASNZ – Refugees As Survivors New Zealand

ADDRESS: National Refugee Centre
PO Box 22-315
Otahuhu, Auckland 2024 New Zealand

CONTACT PERSON: G.E. Poole
Phone: +64 9 270 0870; Fax: +64 9 270 0870
Email: gepoole@rasnz.co.nz

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE
What: A multidisciplinary specialist mobile mental health team work with traumatised refugees and victims of torture. Why: To provide culturally responsive mental health care within the community and reduce cultural and transport barriers to service access; to improve refugee settlement outcomes; to increase capacity in mainstream services to work with refugees. How: A team of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, nurses, body therapists and refugee community link workers provide mental health treatment, early clinical intervention, preventive care and practical support to refugees at community venues or in their own homes. Target: Refugees and survivors of torture and trauma with mental health concerns. Where: Greater metropolitan Auckland region. The RMT is a new specialist service officially opened in November, 2007 by Prime Minister Helen Clark to provide mental health access and improve settlement outcomes for refugees and survivors of torture across metropolitan Auckland. The unique approach: Refugee Community Link Workers from the Afghan, Somali, Sudanese, Burmese, Ethiopian, Iraqi, Kurdish, and Burundian communities were engaged and trained to deliver services at the grassroots level. Team members travel in Prius hybrid vehicles to multiple satellite centres and into homes to deliver highly accessible services. A further mission is to share expertise and build capacity in the mainstream mental health services in working effectively with people from refugee backgrounds. The project was independently and externally monitored and thoroughly evaluated for two years from its inception through a separate grant from the ASB Community Trust. The extensive evaluation reviewed client, family and key informant feedback, as well as hard clinical outcome indicators.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
RASNZ is the specialist mental health agency for all incoming United Nations Quota and Convention refugees, and the provider of a range of vital treatment, rehabilitation, research, and community development services for refugees and survivors of torture. A charitable, non-profit NGO, the work is funded from the Ministry of Health, donors, and a partnership with the philanthropic sector. RASNZ currently has an operating budget approaching $2.7 million dollars and employs 45 staff from a range of professions including medical doctors, psychologists, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, psychiatrists, community health workers, cross-cultural advisors, counsellor-advocates, and occupational therapists. RASNZ also is recognised as a peak provider of clinical interpretation services with over 120 interpreters in 30 languages. RASNZ engages an Interpreter Co-ordinator and leads nationally in training and supervision for interpreters. RASNZ is also the health agency working with asylum seekers and conventional refugees.
CATEGOR Y 1
NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION (NGO) PROVIDED SERVICES

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000
APPLYING SERVICE: City Women’s Supported Accommodation
ORGANISATION: B Miles Women’s Foundation
St Vincent’s Mental Health Service
ADDRESS: 108 Flinders Street
Darlinghurst, NSW 2010
CONTACT PERSON: Kara Holmes
Phone: 02 9360 4881; Fax: 02 9360 7369
Email: kara@citywomenshostel.com.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM
City Women’s Hostel (CWH) is a non-government organisation that provides crisis accommodation to women who are living with a mental illness and are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Formerly, CWH’s relationship with the local mental health Service (St Vincent’s mental Health Service SVMHS) was strained and service provision to mutual clients from both services was poor. It was identified that agency collaboration was necessary and that this would facilitate a recovery focussed approach. It would also ensure that homeless women received equable access to quality mental health treatment and support services. A formal partnership was developed between CWH and SVMHS in 2005 and a Service Agreement was developed. The service agreement outlined the mutual responsibilities of both services. In 2009, an evaluation of this partnership showed significant improvements in outcomes for shared clients. The change of focus to recovery orientated, co-ordinated care has reduced the need for acute mental health interventions.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
City Women’s Hostel (CWH) is a non-government organisation that was established in 1989. Situated in Darlinghurst, CWH provides crisis accommodation to women who are living with a mental illness and are homeless, or at risk of homelessness. Referrals come from all over NSW, the majority from inpatient mental health units. The hostel is a community based organisation funded by the Supported Accommodation and Assistance Program with an annual budget of $582,464. The service employs 12 staff. CWH provides supported accommodation 24 hrs 7 days a week. A team of qualified and experienced Case Managers are employed to work with residents on individual support plans- the main focus being on recovery and housing. The hostel accommodates six women at any one time. Additionally, CWH provides pre-crisis and post-crisis support to clients on either side of their stay. The number of active clients at any one time is usually around 10.
CATEGORY 2
CONSUMER PROVIDED SERVICES

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: Key We Way

ORGANISATION: Wellink Trust

ADDRESS: PO. Box 6516
Wellington 6141 New Zealand

CONTACT PERSON: Gary Platz
Phone: +64 4 8018500
Email: GaryP@Wellink.org.nz

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM/SERVICE
Key We Way is a peer delivered ‘Recovery House’. It is a service that was totally developed, set up and run by Consumers and carers for people who are experiencing acute psychiatric distress and is an alternative to inpatient care in an acute psychiatric unit. The name Key We Way was selected with the underlying principle in mind. The ‘Key’ is in the ‘We’. • All Guests and Staff are peers. That is the ‘Key’; • The ‘We’ is the ‘Key’ of relief of acute distress and healing. • The ‘We’ is strong because of the real connection that comes from all having had acute psychiatric experiences. The ‘We’ is also strong because of the approach of making connection, understanding each other’s worldviews, having mutual responsibility for relationship developed and mutual moving toward something (recovery of wellbeing). (Shery Mead Intentional Peer Support). Key We way is a mental health service that interfaces with acute and community mental health teams and the acute psychiatric unit. Key We Way house can have up to 4 guests at a time. The length of stay averages 3 weeks. It is staffed 24 hours a day seven day a week. Guests also have of use other peer services Wellink has such as Worklink (for employment), Homelink (for housing) and Community Link for longer term recovery of wellbeing work and community linking.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
• Wellink Trusts a Mental Health NGO that operates in the greater Wellington area(Capital Coast District Health Board and Hutt Valley District Health Board)
• We work with approximately 400 clients at any one time in our community Link, Homelink, Worklink service and Warmline.
• Wellink has a budget of approximately. $6.5 million.
• We are mainly funded through District Health board funding and some though the department of social development.
• Wellink is not a totally peer organisation though it has a high number of self disclosed consumer working at all levels of the organisation.
• My role in the organisation is Strategic Advisor. This role is a consumer role that provides Consumer advice to the Executive team and sponsors of all the specialist peer services and other peer roles in Wellink Trust.
• Specialist peer services are also Managed by a peer Service manager
• The strategic Advisor’s function is protected in Wellink’s Trust Constitution. One of the rules and responsibilities for the Trust Board is to protect consumer advice and the integrity of Peer services.
CATEGORY 3
FAMILY/CARER PROVIDED SERVICES

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: Supporting Carers of People with Mental Illness Project

ORGANISATION: Carers SA

ADDRESS: PO Box 410, Unley SA 5061

CONTACT PERSON: Rosemary Warmington
Tel: (08) 8291 5600; Fax: (08) 8271 6388
Email: rosemary@carers-sa.asn.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM
Carers SA Supporting Carers of People with Mental Illness Project*
Carers SA provides a unique suite of programs to support Carers of people with mental illness and young Carers in 5 regions of SA. Services offered include:

- Peer and social support – Carers SA run activities for Carers such as Carer Support Groups with the aim to expand the Carer’s social structure and provide them with opportunities to access peer support
- Emotional support
- Information – Carers SA produce tailored Carer information packs that include information on the illness of the care recipient, as well as coping strategies to assist the Carer to cope with their caring role
- Education and Training – Specific workshops have been developed for Carers and service providers and are delivered across SA
- Carer Mentor Program – Carers are engaged to act as Mentors for other Carers who require guidance in their Caring journey

Carers SA has developed a unique service model to ensure that we provide support to over 500 Carers across South Australia including services in isolated and remote locations.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
Carers SA is a membership based community organisation (an incorporated association). Carers SA was founded 20 years ago with the vision of providing a voice for family Carers and an association to assist Carers to find support. We receive a range of State and Federal Government funding with 50.64 FTE staff across 10 locations in South Australia. We provide a range of state-wide services and in approximately half of South Australia we offer local Carer Support Services to provide practical help in their day to day Caring role. Carers SA has approximately 6,500 members but offers services to all Carers, their families, service providers and professionals to increase awareness of knowledge of Carer issues. Services include: Respite, Peer Support Groups, connection to wide range of services across the state, Carer Counselling, education and training, Carers of people with a mental illness program, young Carer programs and a range of other specialist services.
CATEGORY 3
FAMILY/CARER PROVIDED SERVICES

SPECIAL JUDGES
AWARD: $1,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: “Connections”: Aboriginal Women’s Art Therapy Group

ORGANISATION: St. Vincent’s Hospital, Mental Health Service

ADDRESS: Level 4, O’Brien Centre, St Vincent’s Hospital, Victoria St, Darlinghurst NSW2010

CONTACT PERSON: Douglas Holmes
Tel: 02 8382 1111; Fax: 02 8382 1802
Email: djholmes@stvincents.com.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM
“Connections” is a women’s art therapy group catering to female family members in the indigenous population with a history of mental illness. Its main focus is to connect female family members that are otherwise estranged or isolated due to their illness. Cultural history and stories are shared via the art making process in a culturally safe environment that is otherwise unavailable to them. Facilitation towards improved family interpersonal skills and coping with daily stressors is implemented in the aim to reduce the risk of relapse and re-entry into the mental health system. Embracing a holistic and spiritual well-being approach to art, the outcome of this methodology is that it will also help the immediate and extended families of these women, and, as they are indigenous women, those communities’ bonds extend well beyond the norm.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
Connections were founded in 2001 and was the brainchild of Kaylene Simon, (Aboriginal Mental Health Specialist). Originally a Aboriginal Medical Centre program, Connections was heavily researched from January 1998-2002 by health care workers, who asked community members of the Redfern, Waterloo and Surry Hills areas what they wanted in terms of the creation of ongoing family support networks for people affected with mental illness and/or drug and alcohol dependency. In 2006 South Eastern Sydney Illawarra Area Mental Health Service and St. Vincent’s Hospital took over the program and The City of Sydney provided a safe place for group members to express their feelings through doing creative art. The Community Centre in Chippendale is where the Connections group meets every Monday to share experiences. Other services that regularly attend include workers from Centrelink, Department of Housing, Yallamundi (DOCS) as well as opportunities for the women to access government commission funding for various art-based projects on a local and state level. Staff Numbers 1; Active Clients 35
CATEGrory 4
REGIONAL AND/OR REMOTE SERVICES OR PROGRAMS

GOLD AWARD: WINNER $2,000
APPLYING PROGRAM Aboriginal Mental Health Workforce Program
ORGANISATIONS: Greater Western Area Health Service (Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol)
ADDRESS: Bloomfield Campus, Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800
CONTACT PERSON: Len Kanowski
Tel: 0447 255 034; Fax: 02 6360 7979
Email: Len.Kanowski@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
The Greater Western Area Health Service Aboriginal Mental Health Workforce Program provides on-the-job and university-based training for rural and remote Aboriginal Mental Health Workers in New South Wales. In addition to the training and workplace components, the program also supports graduate workers via mentoring, clinical supervision and pastoral support. The program also provides a distinct career structure for Workers. Aboriginal trainees are selected via an interview process to undertake a three year degree program (Djirruwang Course, Charles Sturt University). The trainees are supported financially to attend the Course. They also receive 12 weeks approved study leave per year. Upon completion of the traineeship, graduates are offered permanent employment within the Area Mental Health Service as Mental Health Workers. Graduates also have the opportunity to move into positions including senior clinician, specialist project worker and Area Coordinator Aboriginal Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol. The Area Mental Health Service aims to achieve a 20% Aboriginal workforce by 2020.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) is the largest health service in NSW. It has 108 facilities, including 33 Public Hospitals, 16 Multi Purpose Services and 59 Community Health Centres. The population is dispersed across a huge geographic area - 444,586 square kilometres, representing more than 55 per cent of NSW. The Aboriginal population in the region is 8%. There are two major non-metropolitan referral hospitals - Dubbo and Orange Base and six district non-metropolitan hospitals - Bathurst, Broken Hill, Cowra, Forbes, Mudgee and Parkes. GWAHS is also affiliated with the University of Sydney Medical School and is home to the University Department of Rural Health in Broken Hill, the NSW Rural Institute of Clinical Research and Training and the NSW Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health. The Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Service employs 728 FTE staff of whom 28 are Aboriginal people. The annual MHDA budget for the financial year 09/10 is $92 million.
CATEGORY 4
REGIONAL AND/OR REMOTE SERVICES OR PROGRAMS

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000

APPLYING PROGRAM Transcultural Rural and Remote Outreach Program (TRROP)

ORGANISATIONS: Transcultural Mental Health Centre
In partnership with
The Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

ADDRESS: Cumberland Hospital
5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta
Locked Bag 7118, Parramatta BC NSW 2150

CONTACT PERSON: Michele Sapucci
Tel: 02 9840 3800 Fax 02 9840 3755
Email: Michele.Sapucci@swahs.health.nsw.gov.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
The TRROP is a partnership between the NSW Transcultural Mental Health Centre a unit of Sydney West Area Health Service, the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health, and rural Area Health Services of Greater Southern, Greater Western, Hunter New England, and North Coast. The project is funded by the Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol Office, NSW Department of Health. TRROP is as an equity and access initiative, intended to explore models of service delivery for culturally and linguistically diverse communities in rural areas. It is the first activity of this kind in rural NSW and has yielded important information to guide policy, planning, and service development. Further, the innovative governance structure was designed to pilot a model of participation and decision-making that included stakeholders involved in the delivery of health care to rural and remote communities from the state level through to the local level.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
Established in 1993, the Transcultural Mental Health Centre (TMHC) is a statewide service that facilitates access, quality and safety in mental health service provision for established and newly arrived culturally and linguistically diverse communities in NSW. The TMHC is an acknowledged leader in: the development and delivery of specialist clinical services, consumer and carer initiatives; publication and resource development and translation; transcultural mental health promotion, prevention and early intervention; clinical supervision; workforce development, education and training; and research, policy and service development. The TMHC recognises the significance of cultural and linguistic difference in relation to mental health and uses a whole-of-lifespan approach, working with individuals and communities at different stages of the migration experience. The TMHC has extensive project management experience at all levels of government. Collaborative partnerships exist with a wide range of mental health and health services, GPs, NGOs, universities, key government and welfare agencies, multicultural and ethno-specific services and culturally diverse communities.
CATEGORY 5
INFANT, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES OR PROGRAMS

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: Green Team, Child and Family Specialty Service, Christchurch

ORGANISATIONS: Child and Family Specialty Service, Canterbury District Health Board, Christchurch

ADDRESS: Cnr Montreal and Cashel Sts, Christchurch 8000 New Zealand.

CONTACT PERSON: Katrina Falconer Beach
Tel: +64 3 364 0063; Fax: +64 3 364 0331
Email: Katrina.falconer@cdhb.govt.nz

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
In December 2007 one of the three generalist teams (Green Team) in the tertiary mental health service for children in Christchurch, NZ, decided to trial a service delivery model/clinical system first developed in the U.K. The system is known as the Choice and Partnership Approach (CAPA). It aims to free up patient flow and enhance the ability of the families seeking assistance to have choice in how they deal with their issues and to work in partnership with clinicians. Underpinning the approach are the “7 Helpful habits of a Successful Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service” which are: Handle demand, Extend capacity, Let go of families, Process map and design, Flow management, Use care bundles (treatments that go together) and Look after staff. CAPA had never been trialled before in New Zealand and so following a training workshop the Green Team decided to do this. The evaluation of the trialling of CAPA with the 50 families that presented to the Green Team from December 2007 to April 2008 indicated that the families felt listened too and respected, the referrers were satisfied with the new approach, the staff enjoyed it and the outcomes for the children in question were in the desired direction. The Green Team has been able to support teams throughout New Zealand, within Australia and even the UK to roll out this promising approach. We have now been using the approach for over two years and current evaluation suggests it is still highly valued by the families going through the service.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
The Child and Family Specialty Service is the outpatient mental health service for children aged between two years and thirteen years living in urban Christchurch (pop. 400 000). Some examples of the possible mental health disorders that the service assists with are ADHD, autistic spectrum disorder, anxiety disorders, mood disorders and eating disorders. Its budget is $2 000 000/year and all funding comes from the National Ministry of Health. There are 26 staff in the whole service, many of whom are part-time. The service receives 700 referrals/year and accepts 450. The green Team see 150 of these/year. The evaluation period ran across the Christmas period so there was slower throughput than at other times of the year.
CATEGORY 5
INFANT, CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES OR PROGRAMS

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000
APPLYING PROGRAM: Triple Care Farm
ORGANISATION: Mission Australia Triple Care Farm
ADDRESS: 188 Knights Hill Rd Robertson NSW 2577
CONTACT PERSON: Nichole Sullivan
Tel: 02 48607402; Fax: 02 48851563
Email: sullivann@missionaustralia.com.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM
Triple Care Farm (TCF) is a safe place for change for young people who have gone off the track. What TCF provides, has been the result of a 20 year journey. Our destination is as a NGO drug and alcohol and mental health residential treatment program for young people aged 16-24. TCF is an integrated treatment program incorporating clinical and the non clinical programs. Clinical programs include a GP clinic, psychometric assessment and targeted intervention, health promotion in sexual health and nutrition, art therapy and case management. Non clinical programs include vocation, education and training, residential living skills, sport, recreation, music and art. Treatment outcomes are rigorously monitored and show to be effective in;

- Increasing clients confidence to remain abstinent from drugs;
- Reducing symptoms and severity of mental illness
- Increase in the satisfaction in quality of life in most areas
- Reduction in the severity of alcohol and other drug use.
- Increase in engagement in employment and training
- Increase in young people having secure accommodation

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
Triple Care Farm is an 18 bed residential facility on the Southern Highlands of NSW. We field requests from all over Australia funded by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing, the Attorney General’s Department, NSW Education and Training and Juvenile Justice, the Sir David Foundation and community and corporate partners. Currently TCF operates with a $2M budget, 34% government funded, and funding is auspice through Mission Australia. TCF employs 25 (FTE) staff from multidisciplinary backgrounds, psychologists, general practitioners, counsellors, case managers, educators, recreational therapists, personal trainers, youth workers, farmers and tradesman and is supported by a wonderful, equally diverse mix of 20 volunteers. Throughout the year TCF supports various university and TAFE student placements in the fields of mental health, psychology, social work, therapeutic recreation, art therapy, Youth work, drug and alcohol work and counselling. TCF has 18 young people in the program for 12 weeks, 20 young people supported in aftercare for 6 months and around another 20 being supported in the process of assessment and admission. In 2009 TCF supported 63 new clients (not including those in the aftercare program or in the intake/assessment phase).
CATEGORY 6
MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION OR MENTAL ILLNESS PREVENTION
PROGRAM OR PROJECT

GOLD AWARD: WINNER $2,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: University of Melbourne Mental Health Strategy

ORGANISATIONS: Mental Health Strategy Working Group,
University of Melbourne,

ADDRESS: Counselling Service, University of Melbourne,
VIC 3010

CONTACT PERSON: Jonathan Norton
Tel: 03 8344 6397; Fax: 03 9347 5403
Email: jnorton@unimelb.edu.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM
This is an innovative process designed to integrate, recognise, endorse and initiate a
range of activities relating to the mental health and wellbeing of students and staff. In
particular, it is explicitly aimed at improved academic outcomes for students, arising from
the recognition that mental health issues have a severe impact on wellbeing, the student
experience, academic engagement and performance in higher education. The strategy
systematically guides the University’s response to mental health issues over the next three
years. It enumerates a series of specific targets and actions in the following areas:
• Mental health promotion – to maintain a university community where mental health is
  promoted and members are well informed on mental health issues.
• Supporting people with their mental health – ensuring members of the community
  experiencing mental illness and mental health difficulties are effectively supported.
• An implementation and evaluation process.
A working group meets to oversee the implementation and evaluation of the strategy.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
The University of Melbourne is a leading international university with a tradition of
excellence in teaching and research. It includes a community of around 45,000 students
and over 5000 staff. The Counselling Service provides counselling and related
psychological services to the population of students and staff, and delivers a range of
health promotion activities across the University. The service is fully funded by the
University and employs a team of 13 mental health professionals. In 2009 the service saw
2132 clients for 6129 sessions of individual counselling, and delivered over 3000 hours of
training, workshops, consultancy, and health promotion to students and staff, contributing
to the implementation of the mental health strategy. This has included delivery of mental
health training including mental health first aid to over 650 staff in the last two years. The
service has taken the lead in the development of the strategy with contributions from other
service and academic areas.
CATEGORY 6
MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION OR MENTAL ILLNESS PREVENTION SERVICES, PROGRAM OR PROJECT

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000
APPLYING PROGRAM: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training and Research Program

ORGANISATIONS: Orygen Youth Health Research Centre, University of Melbourne, Greater Western Area Health Service NSW Health (Mental Health and Drug & Alcohol), NSW Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health

ADDRESS: 27 Alberga Street, Kaleen ACT 2617

CONTACT PERSON: Len Kanowski
Tel: 0447 255 034; Fax: 02 6360 7979
Email: Len.Kanowski@gwahs.health.nsw.gov.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE
The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Training and Research (AMHFA) Program is a culturally adapted version of the internationally acclaimed Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training and Research Program www.mhfa.com.au developed by Betty Kitchener & Professor Tony Jorm in 2000. The AMHFA 14-hour training course and associated research program helps to overcome the stigma and shame relating to mental health problems in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The program also assists individuals, families and communities to recognise mental health problems and to seek the right sort of help early. The culturally adapted program evolved over a six year period and involved extensive consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations nationally. A range of culturally appropriate course materials, and AMHFA Guidelines were developed. 200 AMHFA instructors were trained as AMHFA instructors. The instructors provide AMHFA courses to communities and organisations nationally.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
Orygen Youth Health Research Centre (OYH-RC) - Australia's largest youth mental health research centre. Current research program aims to understand the biological, psychological and social factors that influence onset, remission and relapse of mental illnesses in order to find better ways to prevent and/or reduce the impact of mental disorders for young people. NSW Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health (CRRMH) - A major rural initiative of The University of Newcastle, Faculty of Health and the NSW Department of Health. CRRMH aims to bring quality education and research programs to all rural areas of NSW through effective partnerships. Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) - Largest health service in NSW. Population is dispersed across 444,586 square kilometres. Representing more than 55 per cent of NSW. Affiliated with the University of Sydney Medical School. Home to the University Department of Rural Health in Broken Hill, the NSW Rural Institute of Clinical Research and Training and the NSW CRRMH.
CATEGORY 6
MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION OR MENTAL ILLNESS PREVENTION SERVICES, PROGRAM OR PROJECT

SPECIAL JUDGES
AWARD: $1,000
APPLYING PROGRAM: Inner City Mental Health Recovery Working Party

ORGANISATIONS: Surry Hills Public Tenants Association

ADDRESS: B12/14 Northcott Belvoir St,
Surry Hills NSW 2010

CONTACT PERSON: Charmaine Jones
Tel: 0432 597 279
Email: char.jones@innersydneyrcsd.org.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE
The Surry Hills Public Tenants Association (SHPTA) represents the 1300 public housing tenants living in Surry Hills, most notably the residence of the Northcott High Rise. The tenants in Northcott are of low socio-economic means, many with mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues. In 2005, the members of SHPTA saw a need for services, which not only helped those directly affected by mental health illness, but for those who were their neighbours, friends, family and carers. And so the Mental Health Recovery Working Party was formed. SHPTA invited tenants and representatives from different service and government agencies to sit together and come up with a holistic approach to dealing with the mental health of the community. The need for education, awareness and mental health first aid was deemed a priority. The group have met monthly since 2005 and has grown to include representatives from Housing NSW, St Vincents Mental Health team, St Vincents Community Health team, City of Sydney, Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMS), Neami, Mercy Arms, Inner Sydney Regional Council and obviously SHPTA.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
The Surry Hills Public Tenants Association (SHPTA) was created at a time when the Northcott community was traumatised after a number of murders and suicides. It was a community which had disengaged from itself. There was much social isolation and fear amongst the tenants. SHPTA is an unincorporated organisation which services all Public Housing Tenants in Surry Hills, approx 1300 people, the highest density of public housing in Australia. The organisation is totally volunteer run, with the Management Committee made up of 12 tenants. SHPTA works out of the Northcott Community Centre. Due to the nature of public housing we have a larger than normal number of tenants experiencing mental health issues. SHPTA is committed to making a difference to social outcomes. We are committed to achieving this with fairness and integrity for all tenants. We aim to make our actions socially, economically and environmentally sustainable.
CATEGORY 7
E-HEALTH SERVICES

GOLD AWARD: WINNER $2,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: The VirtualClinic

ORGANISATIONS: Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression (CRUfAD), St Vincent’s Hospital and University of New South Wales

ADDRESS: CRUfAD, St Vincent’s Hospital, Darlinghurst, NSW 2010

CONTACT PERSON: Dr Nickolai Titov
Tel: 02 8382 1732; Fax: 02 8382 1721
Email: nickt@unsw.edu.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM/PROJECT
More than 2 million Australians suffer anxiety or depression each year, but only a minority access effective treatment. At the same time, increasing numbers of Australians have access to the Internet. The VirtualClinic (www.virtualclinic.org.au) is a joint initiative of St Vincent’s Hospital, Sydney, and the University of New South Wales. We aim to help reduce the burden of common mental disorders by developing and evaluating Internet-based education and treatment programs for anxiety and depression. Since 2007, we have developed and tested programs for depression, social phobia, generalized anxiety disorder, and panic disorder. The results of our programs are excellent: The clinical outcomes are similar to those obtained from face-to-face treatment, consumers and carers report the programs are very acceptable, and the programs are cost-effective. Self-guided programs for anxiety and depression are now being tested, and once ready, will also be freely available.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
The VirtualClinic is a joint initiative of the Clinical Research Unit for Anxiety and Depression (CRUfAD) at St Vincent’s Hospital (SVH) and the University of New South Wales (UNSW). In 2007 we had a staff of 2. Our team now consists of 6 full-time equivalents, including clinicians, researchers, students, and IT staff. Since 2007 we have obtained grants from UNSW and the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund, and more recently from beyondblue and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), with ongoing support from SVH and UNSW. Since 2007, we have treated more than 1200 people from every state and territory in Australians, at no expense to consumers. We are currently treating 200 people, and expect to treat more than 1000 in 2010, and more than 2000 in 2011. We also hope to inspire and teach others how to provide evidence-based mental health services to consumers and carers.
CATEGORY 7
E-HEALTH SERVICES

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: The ECCO Project: An evaluation of an Internet-based service for depression in a telephone counselling setting.

ORGANISATIONS: Centre for Mental Health Research, Australian National University, Canberra ACT
Lifeline Australia

ADDRESS: Building 63, Eggleston Road, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 0200

CONTACT PERSON: Louise Farrer
Tel: 02 6125 8859; Fax: 02 6125 0733
Email: Louise.Farrer@anu.edu.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM
Depression is a leading cause of disability burden in Australia and barriers such as cost and access to treatment can impede help-seeking. The ECCO project is a new service introduced into Australia’s national helpline, Lifeline, which aims to provide evidence-based help to those with little access to professional help for anxiety and depression. This service provides callers with a six week Internet program consisting of web-based cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) and depression psychoeducation. A dedicated Lifeline telephone counsellor calls users of the service to support them in completing different components of the program week-by-week. The ECCO Project is the first evidence-based intervention implemented within the context of a telephone counselling service in Australia. The program maximises the workforce potential of the volunteer sector by providing an evidence-based program which can be delivered effectively by a lay facilitator with little training. The program significantly reduces depression and improves quality of life.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
The Centre for Mental Health Research (CMHR) is a dynamic research group funded by competitive grants from government and not-for-profit sectors in Australia. CMHR specialises in mental health issues from an epidemiological and community perspective, and has a focus on e-health and prevention. The Centre consists of 17 academic staff, 26 research and administrative staff, 17 PhD students and 12 part-time interviewers, and collaborates with international and local experts in a range of specialist fields. The Centre’s mission is to produce population mental health research of the highest international standard.

Lifeline Australia provides a free, 24 hour telephone counselling line that answers over 1,200 calls every day. Lifeline also receives over a million contacts each year from people needing care and support, either by telephone, the web or face-to-face. Lifeline has a presence in every state and territory, operating from hundreds of locations and delivering a range of services specific to the needs of local communities. The work of Lifeline is made possible by over 11,000 volunteers and 1,000 staff.

2010 Achievement Awards - Sydney
CATEGORY 8
SPECIALIST SERVICE OR PART OF A LARGER SERVICE

GOLD AWARD: WINNER $2,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: The Helping Young People Early (HYPE) Program as part of Orygen Youth Health.

ORGANISATION: Orygen Youth Health

ADDRESS: 35 Poplar Rd
            PARKVILLE, VIC 3052

CONTACT PERSON: Andrew Chanen
                Tel: 03 9342 2800  Fax: 03 9387 3003
                Email: achanen@unimelb.edu.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE
Helping Young People Early (HYPE) is a nationally and internationally regarded clinical, research and training program at Orygen Youth Health that has pioneered prevention and early intervention for borderline personality disorder (BPD) over the past decade. BPD is a severe mental disorder involving instability of emotions, impulse control, self-concept and interpersonal relationships that first presents in young people. BPD occurs in 20% of youth seeking mental health care and, left untreated, leads to damaging outcomes in interpersonal and family relationships, education and vocation, persisting mental health problems and a suicide rate of around 10%. HYPE is the only evidence-based early intervention for BPD internationally. It works collaboratively with youth and their social networks to improve the outcome for the complex range of problems associated with BPD. HYPE also conducts training locally, nationally and internationally and has been a major contributor to the international research literature.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION:
Helping Young People Early (HYPE) is a specialist program spanning the clinical, research and training components of Orygen Youth Health in Melbourne. Orygen is a collaborative endeavour of Northwestern Mental Health, The University of Melbourne and The Colonial Foundation. HYPE provides a frontline clinical service to 15-24 year-olds in northern and western metropolitan Melbourne, with 50-55 individuals in treatment at any one time and 70-85 new people per annum. It has 10 part-time staff and is fully funded by the Victorian State Government, through Northwestern Mental Health. HYPE training is self-funding through training revenue and supported by the Colonial Foundation. It employs a half-time Senior Project Officer and four casual staff. The HYPE research program is currently funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Research Council and the Colonial Foundation. It employs three staff, has 10 research students and numerous Australian and international collaborators.
CATEGORY 8
SPECIALIST SERVICE OR PART OF A LARGER SERVICE

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000
APPLYING PROGRAM: Community Conservation Corps Trust: Work Readiness Initiative.
ORGANISATION: Community Support Work Service, Mental Health Rehabilitation, Auckland District Health Board
ADDRESS: 27 Sutherland Road, Pt Chevalier, Auckland, New Zealand
CONTACT PERSON: Simone Michel
Tel: +64 9 8155610
Fax: +64 9 8155767
Email: simonem@adhb.govt.nz

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
The Community Conservation Corp Trust created a mechanism for consumers to experience meaningful contribution and participation in their local community, targeting adults experiencing chronic patterns of relapse, dependency, socially isolative existence and minimal opportunity for community connection and employment. The unique approach blends conservation activities with individual expression, work readiness and leadership training. The program involves levels of assessment and evaluation to ensure effective mapping of consumer ability to designated tasks and identification of consumer supervisory capacity and leadership. The Trust developed a nursery utilising local wasteland and funds acquired from the sale of native trees ($5000 in 2009) are channelled into creative micro enterprise loans for program graduates and for expansion and diversification of employment projects. Participant commitment, courage, comradeship and emerging leadership has enabled the initiative to be independent, sustainable and successful. Outcome analysis evidences the tremendous benefits to recovery and independence whilst aiding reforestation of Regional Parks/Rivers.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
The CSW Service provides non-clinical, rehabilitative support to adults living independently in the community, whose quality of life has been severely compromised due to mental illness. The team of six assist approximately 150 consumers utilising ADHB Clinical MH Services yearly. The service covers a catchment area of (637km2) and receives $6200 funding annually toward quality initiatives. Strength Model principles underpin service delivery, promoting community integration, health, employment opportunities and restoration of ones self-esteem and independence. This is achieved through the provision of individualised support and facilitation of group activities: Healthy Lifestyles: Swimming, Badminton, Walking; Cultural Appreciation and Community Conservation Corps: Work Readiness Initiative. The establishment of a Charitable Trust created a legal employment framework to finance fixed term work contacts and small micro enterprise loans for program graduates. To secure sustainability and expansion of work projects: partnerships with Auckland Regional City/Regional Councils, Waikato Mighty River Project and WINZ were developed.
CATEGORY 8
SPECIALIST SERVICE OR PART OF A LARGER SERVICE

SILVER AWARD: FINALIST $1,000

APPLYING PROGRAM: The Mental Health and Sexual Assault Project

ORGANISATION: The Education Centre Against Violence

ADDRESS: Locked Bag 7118, Parramatta BC NSW 2150

CONTACT PERSON: Toni Ashmore or Christine McCabe
Tel: 02 9840 3738 or 02 9840 4054
Fax: 02 9840 3754
Email: Christine_McCabe@wsahs.nsw.gov.au or toni_Ashmore@wsahs.nsw.gov.au

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT
It has been identified through both national and international research along with clinical experience that mental health consumers are subjected to sexual assault across the lifespan in greater numbers than the general community, ECAV has been at the forefront of advocating for the human rights & needs of consumers in terms of best practice within both adult and child & adolescent mental health services. This involves promoting clinical practices that address the promotion of safe environments, the prevention of sexual assaults, gold standard responding when incidents occur and the minimising of re-traumatisation for consumers with histories of past sexual assault. In order to achieve these outcomes, ECAV has been developing & delivering high quality education, resources, tools & evaluation processes to mental health staff across all areas within NSW, advocating and influencing mental health guidelines and policy at local and state levels to improve outcomes for consumers and accountability for services, providing education to Official Visitor’s & General Practitioners programmes as well as advocating for trauma informed practice within mental health services.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION
The Education Centre Against Violence (ECAV) is a NSW Health statewide, specialist organisation auspiced by Sydney West Area Health Service. ECAV is committed to producing high quality learning and development opportunities, resources, and statewide consultation and input into policy development for NSW Health and interagency professionals working with children & adults who have experienced sexual assault, domestic violence, aboriginal family violence and/or physical and emotional abuse and neglect. ECAV receives funding from both federal and state sources. The NSW Mental Health & Drug & Alcohol Office (formerly the Centre for Mental Health) provides funding to the Mental Health & Sexual Assault portfolio to provide a specialist service in consultation and development and provision of training to mental health professionals across NSW around issues related to sexual assault with specific attention on the Promotion, Prevention & Responding to sexual assault and sexually inappropriate behaviours within adult & child & adolescent inpatient facilities. This team has 1.8 FTE educators on staff and utilises external educators when needed to meet training demands across the state.
EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN AUSTRALIA or NEW ZEALAND

AWARD WINNER:  
ISABELL COLLINS  
Melbourne, VIC

CONTACT DETAILS:  
Email: director@vmiac.org.au.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE AWARD RECIPIENT

Isabell Collins has made a significant contribution towards mental health reform as an active and effective voice for mental health consumers. She is well known in the mental health system at both national and state levels.

Isabell is an outstanding and determined advocate for the protection of the human rights of mental health consumers. It is not unusual for Ms Collins to be seen working with clients and their families long after normal office hours and on weekends. No one in need is turned away. She has been providing support and assistance to countless people living with a mental illness, inspiring people with hope.

Isabell participates in more than 20 mental health committees at all levels. She is a member of the National Mental Health Standing Committee, Chairperson of the National Mental Health Consumer and Carer Forum and member of the Victorian Mental Health Ministerial Advisory Committee.

Isabell has a strong passion for her work and she is still indefatigable.

This award is in recognition of her dedication well beyond the “call of duty”, of passionate advocacy for human rights, of commitment at all levels of service planning, and for simply being there when needed. It represents our deep respect for an exceptional contribution, the results of which will flow on to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of all.
BACKGROUND

The Mental Health Media Awards program commenced in 1998. It is designed to encourage accurate and sensitive media coverage of mental health issues, to break down stigma and to educate the community about mental health. There are three categories, as follows:

1. Print media
2. Broadcast media
3. Special Media Achievement

In 2010 there were 30 entries received for the three media categories.

The entries were rated on the following criteria:

- Evidence that the entry has been well researched, demonstrates a positive attitude and is factually accurate.
- The content of the entry is sufficiently complete and well rounded to convey a good understanding of the issues.
- Appropriate reporting of suicide and mental illness, entry must conform to Mindframe guidelines. Please refer to website: http://www.mindframe-media.info

These awards are made possible by generous grants from the Australian Government and the New Zealand Government in recognition of the importance it gives to excellence in media reporting of mental health issues.
BROADCAST MEDIA

WINNER $2,000

TITLE: Kids’ Business

WINNERS: Stewart Carter
          Cath South

ORGANISATION: People Pictures

ADDRESS: 11 Fryers Forest
          Fryerstown, VIC 3451

CONTACT PERSON: Stewart Carter
                 Email: stewart@peoplepictures.com.au

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY:

Kids’ Business is an inspiring portrayal of young people learning to grapple with their lives head on. Intimately observing a class of children as they openly explore issues of bullying, domestic violence and relationships with their parents; the wisdom and honesty of the children, make this a profoundly moving film.

People Pictures comprises husband and wife team Stewart Carter and Cath South. They have been making documentaries together for almost 20 years. Working primarily as a two-person team, they write, direct, produce, and edit. From sound-recording to cinematography, their approach is responsive, empathetic and deliberately personal. People Pictures’ documentaries have screened on National Television in Australia and overseas.
PRINT MEDIA

WINNER $2,000

TITLE: Geelong’s journey

AUTHOR: Danny Lannen

ORGANISATION: Geelong Advertiser

ADDRESS: 191 Ryrie St
Geelong, VIC 3220

CONTACT PERSON: Danny Lannen
Tel: 03 5227 4346; 0429 957 682
Email: danny.lannen@geelongadvertiser.com.au

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY:

This series of stories focuses on suicide and mental health in Geelong. Journalist Danny Lannen has during the past two years revealed suicide as a major issue for the city begging to be drawn into the light. His revelation of the death of Chanelle Rae as the fourth teen from one Geelong school community to suicide within six months drew national attention to suicide and the impact of cyber bulling. He has with dedication followed the establishment of Geelong Suicide Prevention and Awareness Network and the staging of a first annual Walk Against Suicide which attracted 1000 walkers. Geelong’s public airing of suicide and mental health issues, through the Geelong Advertiser, has drawn acclaim from authorities including Prof Patrick McGorry and Jeff Kennett. Lannen’s work in the area fused naturally with coverage of development of Geelong’s pioneering R U OK? Day, which targeted mental health and social connection and involved more than 70 events across the community. He wrote all but a couple of contributed stories for the Geelong Advertiser’s R U OK? Liftout which was acclaimed by mental health workers.

Danny Lannen has worked as a senior journalist with the regional daily Geelong Advertiser for five years. He was previously a Walkley-winning editor of the Wimmera Mail-Times in western Victoria. His story on the suicide of Chanelle Rae was judged News Limited scoop of the year in 2009. Other industry credits include a Melbourne Press Club Quill award and two Rural Press Club of Victoria journalist of the year titles.
**SPECIAL MEDIA AWARD – RURAL FOCUS**

**JOINT WINNER**

$1,000

**TITLE:**
Cape York Health Promotions Project – Suicide Prevention in Cape York’s Remote Indigenous Communities

**ORGANISATION:**
Brisbane Indigenous Media Association

**ADDRESS:**
PO Box 6239
Fairfield Gardens
Brisbane, QLD 4103

**CONTACT PERSON:**
Samuel Watson
Karen Dorante
Tel: 07 3892 0100
Email: samuel@989fm.com.au
karend@989fm.com.au

**DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY:**

The aim of the ‘Building Stronger Families’ segment is to provide advice to people on remote communities in Cape York, that they shouldn’t fear the stigma attached to mental health and that help is available in the form of counselling and therapy for people who are considering self-harm. This 2-minute segment was repeated on air from November 2008 for one month.

This Award is in recognition of an innovative use of a down-to-earth radio message encouraging listeners to overcome stigma and seek out positive mental healthcare options.
SPECIAL MEDIA AWARD – RURAL FOCUS

JOINT WINNER

TITLE: The black day farmer John hit the dirt
And
Agenda: Many paths to depression, but what is the way back?

ORGANISATION: The West Australian Newspaper

ADDRESS: PO Box D162,
Perth, WA 6840

CONTACT PERSON: Sarah Quinton
Tel: 08 9482 3283
Email: sarah.quinton@wanews.com.au

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY:

The entry comprises two stories, one from Morawa farmer John Cunningham and one from myself about my brother’s suicide and my subsequent experience with depression. I approached John specifically because I felt a need to write about rural depression as honestly as possible, but I also wanted the story to offer hope and a path to recovery for the reader. I drove the six hours to John’s red dirt farm after talking to him for 45 minutes on the phone. He is an incredibly humble man and when I left the farm after spending an afternoon of taking photos, we actually hugged. The subsequent opinion piece was a result the courage I saw in John to talk about his experience with depression. As terrifying as it was to air my life story to my work colleagues who I see everyday, my friends, family and the WA public, it was abated by the huge response of support and gratitude I received from both friends and strangers.

Sarah Quinton has been a journalist for three years after spending many years travelling the world. Born in Perth and now working as a journalist for the only daily state-wide newspaper, Sarah has spent time in rural areas writing about many country issues. In her role as a journalist, Sarah covers rural and agricultural industry portfolios as the rural affairs reporter.
### SERVICE AND PROGRAM AWARDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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