

THEMHS Awards

THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

LIST OF THEMHS AWARDS FOR 1997

Category I: COMPREHENSIVE CATCHMENT AREA SERVICE

(Overall excellence of service provision within the constraints of the resources available)

Award Gold: ROCKINGHAM KWINANA PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE, LIVING SKILLS CENTRE
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, ROCKINGHAM AND
KWINANA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Description: The Service is based upon a model of seamless, coordinated service provision that ensures continuity of care for clients in inpatient care or community care settings. Secure and open facilities were provided, as well as an acute day programme. Strong links were developed with primary care services and an independent consumer and carers support group was established.

Award Silver: VALLEY INTEGRATED ADULT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
ROYAL BRISBANE HOSPITAL, QUEENSLAND

Description: The Service has a strong community basis and embraces the Primary Health Care philosophy. The Service developed a strong research base in the development of outcome research. The Service also employed a consumer evaluator to work with the Service.

Award Bronze: COMMUNITY BASED COMPREHENSIVE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES
WARRNAMBOOL AND DISTRICT BASE HOSPITAL PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES
DIVISION, VICTORIA

Description: Following mainstreaming in 1992, the Hospital redeveloped psychiatric service provision in South Western Victoria from an institutional model of care, to a comprehensive community based model of integrated mental health care. The 250-bed institution was closed and specialised multidisciplinary community based teams were located in geographical centres. The Service focuses on early detection and intervention and implemented ongoing education and skills development for all staff.

Category 2: SPECIALIST SERVICE OR INNOVATIVE PART OF A LARGER SERVICE

(Any area of service excluding the categories below)

Award Gold: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, AUCKLAND HEALTH CARE, NEW ZEALAND

Description: Te PUAU Ora (a Maori Community Support Work Service) was established to support Maori people with an ongoing psychiatric illness who live in the community. The Service is staffed entirely by Maori and only accepts Maori clients. The model of care sets its philosophical base on traditional concepts to assist clients and their whanau (families) to lead wholesome quality lives and includes home economics, cooking, personal hygiene, housing education, recreation and leisure, communication, independence and empowerment, advocacy and negotiation. Strong links are made with other services and organisations.

Award Silver: WARATAH AREA HOMELESS OUTREACH PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE
INNER WEST AREA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE, ROYAL MELBOURNE HOSPITAL, VICTORIA

Description: WAHOPS focuses on homeless people living on the streets, under bridges, in parks and squats, and those who use the inner city emergency night shelters. Innovative strategies of engagement and a culturally appropriate model of service delivery were employed to deliver clinical treatment services to homeless people.

Award Bronze: OUT DOOR INC, GETAWAYS PLANNED RESPITE SERVICE, VICTORIA

Description: Getaways provided five-day holidays, in locations ranging from the beach to the mountains, for people with psychiatric disabilities and their carers. The participants were involved in the planning and preparation of their vacation and were encouraged to take part in a range of activities.

Category 3: REHABILITATION SERVICES

(Including vocational and residential services)

Award Gold: PSYCHO-SOCIAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS, PRAHRAN, VICTORIA

Description: Psycho-Social Rehabilitation Programs were developed in direct response to consumer need and service gaps in the community. The Programs were actively used to further knowledge in the field and

focussed on professionalism and technical competence, a commitment to evidence based practice and a scientific approach to program development and evaluation together with a philosophy and humanity, compassion and hope.

Award Silver: TRANSITIONS SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT, NORTH SHORE CITY, NEW ZEALAND

Description: Transitions Supported Employment is a supported employment service, responsive to the needs of people who experience a psychiatric illness. It covers training, education, job search, personal development, placement and retention. The service which emphasises the social importance of work (and education settings) in our culture, as a means of establishing oneself as an individual, and as a means of building social networks with other community members.

Award Bronze: CREATIVE HOUSE, RECREATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL PROGRAM GIPPSLAND PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES, LATROBE REGIONAL HOSPITAL, VICTORIA

Description: Creative House is a low budget Program with few staff but plenty of enthusiasm and vision. The Program has involved clients to the maximum in devising and running the program and volunteers are also highly valued by staff and clients alike.

Category 4: CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES

Award Gold: VIDEO-CONFERRING PROJECT, ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Victoria

Description: This was the first application of the use of video-conferencing in child and adolescent mental health services in Australia. The main aim was to facilitate access of rural health care service providers and their clients to specialist child and adolescent psychiatric expertise.

Award Silver: THE PACE CLINIC, PARKVILLE, VICTORIA

Description: The PACE Clinic provided an innovative program to educate primary carers (GPs and school counsellors) about high risk young people, and about flexible and accessible services for young people. The program also undertook research on the development of psychosis.

Award Bronze: YOUTHLINK, INNER CITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Description: YouthLink focuses on reducing suicidal and self-harming behaviour in homeless and at-risk people aged 12-19 years, as well as addressing other mental health and psychosocial problems including substance abuse, depression, sexual abuse issues and early psychosis. Education and training programs and consultancy services are provided free to other agencies and workers with at-risk young people.

Category 5: SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

There were no entries for this category.

Category 6: PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION OR HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICES OR PROJECTS

Award Gold: DARWIN RURAL ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH TEAM
TERRITORY HEALTH SERVICES, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Description: The Team included two registered mental health nurses, one permanent Aboriginal mental health worker, and four temporary Aboriginal mental health workers based in different locations. The Team worked closely with a community-based worker on a youth suicide prevention project and provided a fairly comprehensive service to the Darwin based Psychiatric Inpatient Facility.

Award Silver: THE PACE CLINIC, VICTORIA

Description: The PACE Clinic works with individuals identified as high risk according to certain symptoms or other factors such as family history. PACE aimed to educate primary carers, provide flexible and accessible services, treat clients' current problems, evaluate consumer satisfaction with service provisions, and undertake research.

Award Bronze: THE CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, VICTORIA

Description: The Centre is a unique initiative that has been at the leading edge of mental health programs for Aboriginal people for over a decade. Central to the work was the development of strong links with Aboriginal communities, including consumers and carers (through community controlled health services) and the belief that working together is the best way of addressing the mental health of Aboriginal communities.

Category 7: BEST CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT SERVICES OR PROJECTS

(For consumer controlled or consumer/provider partnership activities, including activities with carers, or advocacy programs, provider/staff education, or research)

Award Gold: BUILDING BLOCKS CONSUMER NETWORK, QUEENSLAND

Description: The Network offers peer support and information for people who experience a mental illness and undertook a number of projects promoting the concept of mutual support. Consumers were involved in the provision of an active and effective advisory service.

Award Silver: LIVING WELL WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA, SCHIZOPHRENIA FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Description: Three people with personal experience of schizophrenia and a community mental health worker gathered and recorded practical and creative strategies that people with schizophrenia use to deal with the day-to-day challenges of living with the illness. The group compiled the strategies into a book and over 1,000 copies were distributed. The group also ran a series of workshops and produced a 12-minute video for people with mental illness.

Award Bronze: MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK
NORTHERN SYDNEY AREA HEALTH SERVICE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Description: The Network was established in 1994 to increase consumer participation and empowerment at all levels of mental health services. Consumers are recognised and acknowledged to present the consumer

viewpoint in the planning and management of services. Activities include participation in meetings, workshops, seminars and conferences, special projects, training, Peer Support Advocates, social activities, newsletter, and consultations.

Category 8: INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM AWARD FOR AN OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THEORY, EDUCATION OR PRACTICE

(Recognition of people who have made an important contribution to the development of better services)

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UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY, VICTORIA

Description: The Centre is a unique initiative that has been at the leading edge of mental health programs for Aboriginal people for over a decade. Central to the work was the development of strong links with Aboriginal communities, including consumers and carers (through community controlled health services) and the belief that working together is the best way of addressing the mental health of Aboriginal communities.

Award Silver: DIPLOMA OF HEALTH SCIENCE (MENTAL HEALTH)
JOINT INITIATIVE WITH CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY, SOUTHERN HEALTH SERVICE, ABORIGINAL STEERING COMMITTEE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Description: The Diploma of Health Science (Mental Health) was specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander mental health professionals to meet the needs of their respective community. Three students graduated from the original pilot course and the course is being supported by various Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities.

Award Bronze: DARWIN RURAL ABORIGINAL MENTAL HEALTH TEAM
TERRITORY HEALTH SERVICES, NORTHERN TERRITORY

Description: The Team included two registered mental health nurses, one permanent Aboriginal mental health worker, and four temporary Aboriginal mental health workers based in different locations. The Team worked closely with a community-based worker on a youth suicide prevention project and provided a fairly comprehensive service to the Darwin based Psychiatric Inpatient Facility.