MEDIA RELEASE

Dedicated professional wins Mental Health Nurse of the Year 2013

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) has named Professor Dianne Wynaden, from Western Australia, Mental Health Nurse of the Year.

Professor Wynaden is a registered nurse, Credentialed Mental Health Nurse, and Professor Mental Health at the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Curtin University in Western Australia. She is a member of the WA Mental Health Advisory Council, which provides independent advice to the WA Commissioner of Mental Health. She also has research consultancy positions with Fremantle Hospital (MH) and the WA State Forensic Mental Health Service. As a Professor, her role traverses education, research and clinical practice.

“It is a great privilege to be nominated and selected by my peers for this award. It is one of the highlights of my professional career”, said Professor Wynaden. “Mental health nurses are leaders in the delivery of quality care and it is exciting to be part of shaping the profession into the future.”

“I could not have won this award without the ongoing support of my colleagues who each contribute to my achievements”, Professor Wynaden said.

ACMHN President Professor Wendy Cross is delighted with the outcome of this award. “Dianne is a truly worthy recipient of this award. She is an exceptional mental health nurse, a great leader and advocate for mental health nursing. We are privileged to have a mental health nurse of her stature and capability amongst us”, said Professor Cross.

Established by the ACMHN in 2008, this prestigious award recognises the achievements of Mental Health Nurses and promotes the importance of mental health nursing as a specialty. The award, supported by Wiley-Blackwell, was presented at the International Conference on Mental Health Nursing being held in Perth this week.

Also announced during the Conference were the Partnerships in Wellbeing Awards, which recognise and support innovative programs that assist people living with a mental illness to optimise their lifestyles and improve their quality of life. The major prize winner was The Recovery Camp 2013, run by the University of Wollongong, which saw undergraduate nursing students and people with a lived experience of mental health issues sharing a week together, promoting an understanding of individual mental health recovery and facilitating an immersive learning experience for nursing students.

Approximately 400 mental health nurses and others working in mental health are attending the Conference, which is an opportunity for participants to stay up to date on trends in clinical practice, research, education and explore the changing scope of mental health nursing.

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