MEDIA RELEASE

Tireless and consumer-focused professional wins
Mental Health Nurse of the Year 2014

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) has named Lisa Fawcett, from Queensland, Mental Health Nurse of the Year.

Lisa Fawcett is the Nursing Director of Tertiary Mental Health Services and part of the senior management team at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital, Queensland. In the course of her work, Lisa has worked tirelessly to build an engaged mental health nursing workforce with a focus on highlighting the professional skills and motivations for working with consumers towards recovery.

“It is a privilege to maintain a career in the specialty of mental health. As nurses, one of our fundamental responsibilities is advocacy for people with mental health issues and their carers,” said Ms Fawcett. “The mental health community deserves the best care that we, as individuals and teams, can deliver”.

ACMHN President Professor Wendy Cross is thrilled with the outcome of this award. “Lisa leads by example, particularly in regard to her strong consumer focus”, Professor Cross said.

“Her efforts have led to better outcomes for consumers, and greater job satisfaction amongst her staff. Lisa is not afraid of tough conversations, she’s resourceful and hard-working, and maintains a high level of composure when facing difficult circumstances”, continued Professor Cross.

“Lisa exemplifies all that a mental health nurse should be”, 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, was presented at the International Conference on Mental Health Nursing being held in Melbourne this week.

Also announced during the Conference was the Mental Health Nurse Achievement Award, which was awarded to Toby Raeburn of New South Wales. Toby is the founder of ROAM Communities Mental Health Nursing, he is a part time lecturer at the University of Sydney, and is midway through PhD research with the University of Western Sydney

“Mental health nurses make wonderful contributions to improving the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable populations all over the world every day of the week, so it is very humbling and a great honor to receive this award”, Mr Raeburn said.

Approximately 600 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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