MEDIA RELEASE

Enthusiastic professional wins Mental Health Nurse of the Year 2012

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) has named Tom Ryan, from Townsville, Mental Health Nurse of the Year.

The award recognises Tom’s leadership in mental health nursing and his pioneering work in building the dialogue of clinical supervision and psychotherapy in mental health nursing.

Tom is a Credentialed Mental Health Nurse and Fellow of the ACMHN, as well as Chair of the North Queensland Regional Branch of the ACMHN. He is the Co-owner of the International Psychiatric Nursing email discussion list, which was started in 1994 and boasts over 800 members, and provides guest lecturing for James Cook and Charles Darwin Universities.

“I was surprised and flattered to be both nominated and selected for this award”, said award winner Tom Ryan.

“Mental health nursing is largely about collaboration and I see this award as acknowledging not only my own work but the collaborative networks of which I am a part”, said Mr Ryan.

“I am passionate about the identity and usefulness of mental health nursing and the absolute necessity for clinical supervision to support the integrity of our practice. I see this award as an opportunity to promote that identity and hopefully to encourage new practitioners to enter this fascinating and rewarding discipline”, he said.

Unlike Mr Ryan, ACMHN President Peter Santangelo was not surprised by the nomination and selection. “Tom is an admirable mental health nurse, a great role model and absolutely worthy of this award. The profession is indeed fortunate to have a mental health nurse of his calibre in its midst”, said Mr Santangelo.

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 Darwin this week.

Approximately 440 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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