MEDIA RELEASE

Partnerships in Wellbeing Awards 2011

The Australian College of Mental Health Nurses (ACMHN) and Eli Lilly last night awarded the Women’s Wellbeing Group at St John of God Mental Health Service in Warrnambool the major Partnerships in Wellbeing Award for 2011, worth $6,000.

These unique awards recognise and support innovative programs that assist people living with a mental illness to optimise their lifestyles and improve their quality of life. The awards are designed to support programs that have not attracted significant funding from other sources and are a departure from core business.

The Women’s Wellbeing Group was developed in May 2011 with a goal of promoting social inclusion and encouraging a healthy lifestyle in women who have become socially isolated due to their mental illness. ‘This program has already achieved some significant outcomes for clients and we hope this award will assist them to continue their good work’, ACMHN President Peter Santangelo said.

ACMHN CEO Kim Ryan said the Partnership in Wellbeing Awards recognises partnership between mental health professionals and consumer and carers. ‘These programs highlight the importance of a multidisciplinary approach and the need for consumers to be involved at all stages - these are not programs developed for consumers but with consumers,’ Ms Ryan said.

The Dual Diagnosis Consumer and Carer Advisory Council run by the Eastern Dual Diagnosis Service in Victoria, and the Healthy Body Healthy Mind program run by Kaleidoscope Youth Health in New South Wales, also received recognition Partnership in Wellbeing Awards, worth $3,000 each.

The awards were presented at the International Conference on Mental Health Nursing being held on the Gold Coast this week. Almost 500 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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