

14 September, 2018

## FINALISTS NAMED IN EXCELLENCE IN NURSING AND MIDWIFERY AWARDS

The contribution and dedication of nurses from South Eastern Sydney Local Health District will be recognised in this year's Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

NSW Health will host the awards ceremony at NSW Parliament House on 27 September, 2018 where finalists and winners will come together to celebrate their achievements with family, friends and colleagues.

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District's finalists are represented in the following award categories:

- Christine Turner, clinical nurse consultant, neurology department, Sutherland Hospital  
Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award
- Jessica Pahina, registered nurse, general medical ward (Warada), Sutherland Hospital  
Excellence in Nursing/Midwifery Graduate Award
- Wayne Varndell, clinical nurse consultant, emergency department, Prince of Wales Hospital  
Excellence in Innovation – Research Award

Kim Olesen, Acting Chief Executive, South Eastern Sydney Local Health District, said the dedicated nurses named as finalists reflected the calibre of nurses and midwives working across the local health district.

"These staff have demonstrated great commitment and professionalism and should take great pride in this achievement. We are very proud to have them as part of our nursing and midwifery team," Ms Olesen said.

"Nurses and midwives are the backbone of our health system and are pivotal in the way we deliver quality health care services to those in need.

"Since March 2011, the nursing and midwifery workforce at South Eastern Sydney Local Health District has increased by 742, bringing the total number of full time equivalent nurses and midwives to 4,672. In 2018, 274 nursing and midwifery graduates commenced their careers in our local health district."

The annual Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards acknowledge the contribution and dedication of the 52,000 nurses and midwives working across the state in the NSW public health system; and recognise nurses and midwives for their excellence in practice and for the significant contribution that they make to the professions, their teams and the community through their practice, leadership and research endeavours.