



Media Release

Friday, 10 October

For immediate release

Older adult advocate wins award

With over 31 years experience in general and mental health nursing, Mr Leslie Nolan is one proud winner of the 2008 Mental Health Good Outcomes Awards, Mental Health Employee category.

Highlighting Mental Health Week, these awards recognise the outstanding contribution of individuals, groups and organisations that foster leadership, innovation and continuous improvement in mental health.

Dr Graham Jacobs, Minister for Mental Health, announced the winning finalists at a breakfast on Tuesday 7 October 2008.

"Winning this award is an honour and in accepting it, I would also like to acknowledge families, carers and allied health staff that do a great job in caring for people with a mental illness," said Mr Nolan.

Employed by North Metropolitan Area Health Service (NMAHS) Mental Health, Mr Nolan works as a Clinical Nurse Consultant focussing on older adult mental health patients presenting at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

"Leslie's commitment to supporting and educating staff, patients and families impacts positively on the clinical management of these patients," said Dr David Russell-Weisz, Chief Executive NMAHS.

Mr Nolan said that he is called upon to assess older adults experiencing delirium, dementia and depression, who often present in a distressed state.

"This award recognises Leslie's expertise in dealing with challenging situations that require strategic and innovative management," said Sylvia Meier, Acting Area Executive Director, NMAHS Mental Health.

"I think it's important to support patients and their families throughout their experience at the hospital. This involves identifying issues, making assessments, talking to family, carers and general practitioners to best manage individual needs," said Mr Nolan.

Individualised care plans that provide access to appropriate community support services also benefit those discharged from hospital said Mr Nolan.

"Even though my role is challenging and quite demanding, I couldn't think of a better job as I really enjoy interacting with staff, patients and their relatives," he said.

ENDS

Media enquiries: Lucy Monte, NMAHS Mental Health Public Relations 0420 373 901

