

On Monday 7th July The 2008 Aboriginal Health Awards were held at The Waters Edge, Pier 1, Sebel Hotel, Sydney.



The 2008 NSW Aboriginal Health Awards (sponsored by Baxter – leading innovators in health care) acknowledge and nurture excellence for health services provided to Aboriginal people and communities in NSW. They recognise individuals, teams and organisations that show outstanding practice in the field of Aboriginal health.

The Centre for Aboriginal Health invited nominations for people, teams or organisations who are acknowledged for their achievements in improving Aboriginal health outcomes.

The Awards ceremony was held to mark the start of National Aboriginal and Islander Day Observance Committee (NAIDOC) Week.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Ms Leah Purcell.

Aboriginal Health Awards



Traditional Dance Group 'Descendance' entertained the audience with wonderful traditional dance routines. The groups leader Mattawinya explained the troupe tours the world. She went on to explain they attended a cultural competition with a total of 72 countries performing in a cultural competition hosted in Barcelona. They returned to Australia with the gold medal.

Mr Jimmy Little also took to the stage with wonderful renditions of his songs, and also from other known artists from the past. Each performance was extremely well received.

Guest presenters were:
Maree Coy – Managing Director, ANZ Baxter Healthcare
Ms Debora Piccone, AM – Director General, NSW Health
The Hon. Paul Lynch, MP – NSW Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Local Government and assisting the Health Minister for Mental Health

WAMS staff who attended were:
Christine Corby, Peter Fernando, Trevor Simpson, Philip Dowse, Richard Simpson and Jessie Richardson.



AWARD CATEGORIES

Excellence in Program and Service Delivery

This award recognises excellence in the delivery of health programs and services for Aboriginal people.

Winner: Malabar Community Midwifery Link Service - The Royal Hospital for Women South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service

Runner up: Good for Kids. Good for Life. Equity - Focussed Health Impact Assessment - Hunter New England Area Health Service

Innovation in Aboriginal Health

This award recognises innovative programs that are designed to respond to Aboriginal population health needs and encapsulate new research findings.

Winner: Pressing Problems - Gambling Research Project Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

Runner up: Sexually Transmissible Infections and Blood Borne Viruses in Aboriginal Communities in NSW: Survey of Knowledge, Risk Practice and Access to Service - Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

Strengthening Aboriginal Families and Children

This award recognises the focus on strengthening Aboriginal families and community's access to essential primary health and continuing care services so problems can be addressed early and effectively.

Winner: The Kari Clinic KARI Aboriginal Resources Incorporated, Sydney South West Area Health Service and the Department of Community Services NSW

Runner up: Box Ridge Transition to School Program and Goonellabah Transition to School Program
North Coast Area Health Service, the Department of Community Services, the Department of Education and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Aboriginal Affairs.

Working Together to Make a Difference

This award recognises achievements where individuals and agencies have collaboratively worked together with Aboriginal communities to make a difference in addressing local health needs.

Individual winner: Garry Creighton - Tamworth Community Health, Hunter New England Area Health Service.

Individual runner up: Jacquie Welch - Lismore Youth and Family Mental Health service, North Coast Area Health Service

Team winner: Coinless Condom Machines - Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Ltd

Team runner up: AUNTS (Aboriginal United Nurturing Teams) Hunter New England Area Health Service

Team runner up: Yaamanhaa Aboriginal Men's Group in Tamworth - Hunter New England Area Health Service

Team runner up: The Bila Muuji Aboriginal Regional Health Service - A consortium of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health services and related services within the Greater Western Area Health Service of NSW

Team runner up: Good for Kids. Good for Life Equity-Focussed Health Impact Assessment - Hunter New England Area Health Service

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Enterprise and Resourcefulness

This award recognises enterprising health programs that have been developed utilising existing resources and are wide reaching, effective and sustainable.

Winner: 'Pit Stop' Men's Health Screening and Referral Program - A joint initiative of Greater Western Area Health Service, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, Bourke Aboriginal Health Service, and the Outback Division of General Practice.

Runner up: Coalition for Research to Improve Aboriginal Health (CRIA) - A partnership between The Sax Institute and the Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

Runner up: Bila Muuji Upper Sector Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program - Bourke Aboriginal Health Service

Excellence in Workforce

This award recognises excellence in the delivery of quality health services to Aboriginal communities across NSW.

Individual Winner: Phillip Dowse - Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Limited

Innovation in Chronic Care

This award recognises innovative prevention programs that aim to reduce the level and impact of preventable chronic health conditions and promotes better health for Aboriginal people and communities.

Winner: Using knowledge to safeguard our nations - A collaborative approach to vascular and renal health in Aboriginal communities within the Countries of north-eastern NSW - Hunter New England Area Health

Runner up: Healing - Healthy Eating Activity Lifestyles for Aboriginal Groups - North Coast Area Health Service.

The Gail May Award

This Award recognises an Aboriginal Health Worker who has made an exceptional contribution to Aboriginal health and their local community in NSW. The "Gail May Award" is dedicated in the memory of a highly respected Aboriginal woman whose contribution to health and Aboriginal affairs in NSW was outstanding.

Winner: Mareese Terare

Director General's Award

This award is presented by the Director -General of NSW Health at their discretion in recognition of the most outstanding nominee across all the award categories.

Malabar Community Midwifery Link Service - The Royal Hospital for Women South Eastern Sydney Area Health Service

The Minister's Award for Aboriginal Health

This Award is presented to the NSW Health Area Health Service or organisation that demonstrates the most outstanding commitment to improving Aboriginal health across a range of indices including excellence in program delivery, strengthening access to primary care, improved access to mainstream health services for Aboriginal people and collaborative partnership arrangement with Aboriginal people. Good for Kids. Good for Life Equity-Focussed Health Impact Assessment, Hunter New England Area Health Service

Hall of Fame

This category acknowledges people who have been exemplary and have consistently demonstrated strong dedication to improving the health outcomes of Aboriginal people by influencing policy direction or service development in Aboriginal Health.

There were two equally outstanding winners of this Award: Ms Pam Greer (presenter for NSW Health ECAV training and educational programs) and Mrs Judy Johnson (CEO of Bourke Aboriginal Health Service)

Closing address was conducted by Ms Debora Piccone AM Director General, NSW Health

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