

MEDIA RELEASE

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Winners of the 17th Annual ACHS Quality Improvement Awards Announced

Central Coast Local Health District, Country Health South Australia Local Health Network and Melbourne Health were announced as winners of the 17th Annual ACHS Quality Improvement Awards at the ACHS Annual Dinner at the Menzies Hotel, Sydney.

ACHS Executive Director of Customer Services and Development Linda O'Connor together with Baxter Quality Manager Martin Flattery presented the awards in three categories – Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety, Non-Clinical Service Delivery, and Healthcare Measurement.

This year, ACHS received approximately 100 high quality submissions from Australian and International ACHS member and Clinical Indicator Program organisations.

Central Coast Local Health District won the **Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety Award** for their Children and Young People's Mental Health Project "*The Keep Them Safe Whole Family Team Gosford Pilot Project*", aimed at addressing child protection concerns when the family unit's health and social well-being is at risk.

Country Health South Australia Local Health Network's Safety and Quality Unit won the **Non-Clinical Service Delivery Award** for their "*BloodMove*" project to implement a novel red blood cell wastage minimisation program across 62 regional hospitals with and without on-site laboratories and a multiple transfusion laboratory network. The project has been so well accepted it is now part of normally accepted practice in country SA.

The **Healthcare Measurement Award** was won by Melbourne Health's Influenza Vaccination Working Party for their "*Taking staff influenza vaccination rates to a record level*" which did as it said - lifting rates from 45 % in 2012 to 80%, and achieving 95% compliance with documentation.

Ms Linda O'Connor said she is very pleased with judge's decisions as the QI Awards winning and highly commended projects were awarded to outstanding organisations from a variety of geographical settings on very broad and contemporary health topics.

"The ACHS Quality Initiative Awards are growing from strength to strength with entries also now being received from overseas. The judges felt that this year the submissions were of a very high quality. Innovation in health care quality and safety is being successfully showcased with a drive to achieve strong results that translates into practical and effective initiatives," Ms O'Connor said.

For further information please contact Communications Manager Ian McManus Ph +61 2 8218 2743. To obtain a copy of the *Quality Initiatives – Entries in the 17th Annual ACHS Quality Improvement Awards 2014* publication, contact Dr Mark Burgess on +61 2 8218 2776 or mburgess@achs.org.au