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MEDIA RELEASE

2014 ACHS Medal and ACHS International 40 year Anniversary Award Winners Announced

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) has awarded its prestigious **2014 ACHS Medal** to South Australian Kae Martin for outstanding achievement in maintaining a continuous quality improvement focus in health care delivery systems.

In presenting the award, ACHS President, Adjunct Associate Professor Karen Linegar said “We are delighted to present this award to Kae Martin for her clinical experience combined with her extensive career in senior executive roles in metropolitan and country health settings,” she said.

“What is clearly evident in the positions she has held over many years, is her unrelenting passion for ensuring that the safest and best quality health services are delivered to patients and communities.”

For the first time ever ACHS also announced a second medal winner with the new **ACHS International 40 year Anniversary Medal** being bestowed upon Dr Lawrence FM Lai from Hong Kong in recognition of his ‘outstanding contribution at an international level to improving quality and safety in health services’.

“Dr Lai is highly respected in Hong Kong for the various roles he has held and his contribution to promoting hospital accreditation and improving quality and safety at the local, regional and international level.”

“He is a highly influential person who, until his retirement in December 2009 was the Cluster Chief Executive of Hong Kong West Cluster, comprising Queen Mary Hospital and six other hospitals.

“He is currently appointed Honorary Senior Advisor of the Hong Kong Hospital Authority and has recently guided the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Hospital to undertake ACHS accreditation which is a major milestone as it will be the first hospital in the People’s Republic of China to be awarded ACHS accreditation status.

“The ACHS International 40 Year Anniversary Medal, presented in our 40th Anniversary year, acknowledges an individual who has made an outstanding contribution, and one that also furthers the work and profile of ACHS internationally. Dr Lai is a worthy recipient of this award.”

And in another first for the awards, a “Highly Commended” recognition was given to a ACHS Medal nominee from Queensland – Ms Cheryl Burns, Patient Safety and Quality Manager, Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service in Far North Queensland.

“Overall this has been a strong year for nominees and the ACHS Board is proud of both winners and what they have each individually achieved in the promotion of quality in health care, and the difference they have made,” Adj Assoc Prof Linegar said.

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