

# THEMHS Awards

THE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES CONFERENCE OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

## LIST OF THEMHS AWARDS FOR 1998

**Category:** PRINT MEDIA

**Award:** DENISE ELIZABETH RYAN, THE AGE NEWSPAPER

**Description:** Ms Ryan wrote a feature article on schizophrenia headlined 'All the Lonely People' which was published in The Age on Tuesday June 23, 1998. The article profiled Ms Sandy Jeffs, an award winning poet who suffers from schizophrenia, while also providing factual information on schizophrenia as an illness and its treatment. The article showed sensitivity and a desire to accurately portray a person with the disorder.

**Category:** BROADCAST MEDIA

**Award:** TRIPLE J NATIONAL YOUTH NETWORK, ABC RADIO

**Description:** "Reach Out" was a youth suicide awareness and fund raising campaign held on Triple J Radio over 14-21 July 1997. The core information about youth suicide was contained in a comprehensive five part documentary series exploring issues ranging from warning signs, feeling vulnerable, effects of the mass media, coping with the loss of a loved one, and prevention strategies. In addition, 1-2 minute information drops were run featuring advice from celebrities and young people on warning signs and how to help a suicidal friend. The week culminated in a Radiothon that raised \$200,000 for a youth suicide prevention Website.

**Category I:** COMPREHENSIVE CATCHMENT AREA SERVICE

(Overall excellence of service provision within the constraints of the resources available)

**Award Gold:** ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE, VICTORIA

**Description:** The Service is committed to establishing a climate of continuous improvement for consumers with serious mental illness including a high percentage of people with non-English speaking backgrounds, Kooris and itinerant people. Major changes included the development of a new service model and organisational structure reflective of state and national policies.

**Award Silver:** SUNSHINE COAST AND GYMPIE DISTRICTS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE  
INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM, QUEENSLAND

**Description:** The Service made the transition from one of the least funded in Australia to a leader in implementing the National Standards for Mental Health Services in a very short period of time. The Service is active with community agencies in pre-vocational and vocational programs. The Service provides 24-hour assessment and crisis response and support in community and hospital settings.

**Award Bronze:** CAULFIELD AGED PSYCHIATRY SERVICE  
CAULFIELD GENERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, VICTORIA

**Description:** The Centre is a psychiatric outreach service for the elderly of Inner South East Melbourne. Programs within the service include a Memory Disorders Clinic, a consultant liaison service, a transcultural program, family therapy service, and a mobile clinic. The service also ran a highly successful project entitled "The Behaviour Support Team" for patients who had dementia, were living in nursing homes or hostels, and who had behavioural disturbance.

**Category 2: SPECIALIST SERVICE OR INNOVATIVE PART OF A LARGER SERVICE**

(Any area of service excluding the categories below).

**Award Gold:** PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY TEAM, HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Description:** The service provides a focal point for people seeking information on entry to available services and on all aspects of mental health care and the Mental Health Act. It has a major training role for Authorised Mental Health Practitioners (including setting standards), primary care workers, consumers, police and the staff of other agencies. The team developed expertise in crisis intervention, the management of aggression, emergency assessments and assisting the Police Negotiations Unit.

**Award Silver:** MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM - HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICE  
INNER SOUTH COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICE, VICTORIA

**Description:** The Program provided long term secure and affordable housing, client-focused support, and community integration to people with long term mental illness. The unique service was staffed by a multi-disciplinary team able to provide case management and housing support to 50 clients.

**Award Bronze:** MOTHER BABY PROGRAM, MONASH MEDICAL CENTRE, VICTORIA

**Description:** The Program specialised in the care of severely mentally ill mothers and their infants within a specialised inpatient service. The multidisciplinary team formulated individualised bio-psycho-social management plans to meet the needs of the mother; the infant, the mother/infant interaction, the partner; and the extended family. The service offered the ideal environment of a stand-alone service within a psychiatry service attached to an obstetric hospital.

**Category 3: REHABILITATION SERVICES**

(Including vocational and residential services)

**Award Gold:** REHABILITATION SERVICES, INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, QUEENSLAND

**Description:** Girrebala 'awakening' is a creative and innovative program that was established in the Gold Coast District. Consumers, carers and rehabilitation staff worked closely together to develop a comprehensive range of services so that consumers could lead a satisfying and meaningful life in the community. Many initiatives in the area of the arts, drama, and writing were carried out to raise the profile of mental health and to promote the talents and abilities of consumers. Girrebala made a significant contribution to the field of mental health in the area of rehabilitation.

**Award Silver:** LANDMARK MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT, BOYSTOWN LINK UP, QUEENSLAND

**Description:** Landmark aimed to provide a better quality of life for young people with a mental illness, in particular those aged 17-25 years who were homeless or living in an unsuitable environment. The young person was supported to find accommodation and to live independently. The support workers employed also had a mental illness and so become role models for the young people.

**Award Bronze:** INNER WEST MOBILE SUPPORT AND TREATMENT TEAM  
INNER WEST AREA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE, VICTORIA

**Description:** The Team devised a comprehensive model of community based treatment, support and rehabilitation for people with severe psychiatric disabilities, aimed at promoting stability, safety and growth for the client, their carers and the local community. The service model aims to provide an extremely positive and supportive environment, with flexible case management while assisting clients to meet significant long term goals associated with improved mental health and enhanced quality of life.

**Category 4: CHILD AND ADOLESCENT SERVICES**

**Award Gold:** REDCLIFFE-CABOOLTURE CHILD AND YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE  
REDCLIFFE-CABOOLTURE DISTRICT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE, QUEENSLAND

**Description:** RCCYMHS was a community based mental health program for children, young people and their families suffering from, or at risk of, serious emotional disturbance. It was an extended hours service, available 365 days a year and up to 9.00pm at night. It was mobile, providing immediate crisis response and intervention as well as case management and an assertive outreach program forming partnerships with a number of community agencies.

**Award Silver:** MAROONDAH CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE  
MAROONDAH HOSPITAL, VICTORIA

**Description:** Between 1995-1998, the Service applied the model of the "learning organisation" and generated an energising vision of learning in partnership with the community. The model helped drive change through a new management structure, developing a learning culture, and establishing a clinical research unit. Accessible services were provided by localised community-based teams.

**Award Bronze:** YOUNG PEOPLE & EARLY PSYCHOSIS INTERVENTION PROGRAM  
YOUNG PEOPLE & EARLY PSYCHOSIS INTERVENTION CENTRE,  
GOSFORD, NEW SOUTH WALES

**Description:** The YPPI Program managed the YPPI House, a residential service which offered support and accommodation to young people (16-25 years) with emerging or newly established major mental illness of less than two years duration. It also provided a specialist employment service for the vocational needs of people with a mental illness.

**Category 5: PREVENTION, HEALTH PROMOTION OR HEALTH EDUCATION SERVICE OR PROJECT**

**Award Gold:** YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION PROJECT  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Description:** YMAG (Youth Mental Health Magazine) is the culmination of a project designed to develop and market a product with wide appeal to young people aged 15-19 years including information, images and personal stories about mental illness and life issues. It was designed for use by teachers in senior high schools in the English and Health Education curriculum, through the participation of university and TAFE media.

**Award Silver:** THE PARENTS' PROJECT  
MAROONDAH HOSPITAL AREA MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE, VICTORIA

**Description:** This innovative consumer-driven project developed strategies to provide support to parents who have a mental illness. Through dynamic collaboration with consumers and service providers, the project implemented a number of initiatives including three highly successful support groups for parents, and training packages for mental and non-mental health workers.

**Award Bronze:** DUMPING DEPRESSION CAMPAIGN  
CENTRAL COAST AREA HEALTH SERVICE, GOSFORD, NEW SOUTH WALES

**Description:** Dumping Depression was a health promotion project designed to enhance resilience to depression in 15-18 year olds. The project involved strategies such as using young designers to create resource material, establishing a Youth Advisory Group, and advertising material for parents on shopper dockets.

**Category 6: BEST CONSUMER INVOLVEMENT SERVICE OR PROJECT**

(Consumer controlled or consumer/provider partnership activities, involving carers)

**Award Gold:** THE DEEP DIALOGUE PROJECT, THE VICTORIAN MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS COUNCIL IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NORTH WESTERN HEALTH NETWORK, VICTORIA

**Description:** The Project involved a small group of politically experienced consumers who met weekly for ten weeks with a small group of staff. The process offered support for the group of 'trained' staff to re-enter their places of work with greater insight as well as new skills to act as 'culture carriers' disseminating the gains they had made from the learning experience to other staff and management.

**Award Silver:** SCHIZOPHRENIA FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION GROUP  
SCHIZOPHRENIA FELLOWSHIP OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Description:** The Group undertook a wide range of different educational activities including speaking engagements, using the print media, radio and television to disseminate information, developing information packages and brochures in different languages, and participating in workshops for the training of police and ambulance officers.

**Award Bronze:** ROZELLE HOSPITAL CONSUMER CONSULTANTS, ROZELLE HOSPITAL,  
NEW SOUTH WALES

**Description:** The Consumer Consultants are a group of people, with a mental illness, employed part time by the hospital to provide support and advocacy to patients. The Consultants worked as role models for others, giving hope that they, too, can become well. The Consultants worked to ensure that information about consumer rights was made available to patients.

**Category 7: INDIVIDUAL OR TEAM AWARD FOR AN  
OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THEORY,  
EDUCATION OR PRACTICE**

(Recognition of people who have made an important contribution to the development of better services)

**Award Gold:** COMMUNITY RECREATION, EDUCATION ACCESS, TRAINING &  
EMPLOYMENT TEAM  
RYDE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE, VICTORIA

**Description:** The CREATE Team, a multi-disciplinary rehabilitation service, redefined itself during the development of the Vocational Training Support Program (Cornucopia) to ensure that all consumer needs were addressed. The team worked to develop partnerships with other organisations, and to provide opportunities in the areas of work, recreation, leisure education and training. The CREATE team evolved from a small rehabilitation team of mental health professionals to a much more broadly skilled group from a range of backgrounds, including education, health promotion and vocational training.

**Award Silver:** REHABILITATION AND THERAPY PROGRAMS FOR MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS  
BELVEDERE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE AND THERAPY CENTRE,  
NEW SOUTH WALES

**Description:** The Centre provides an integrative, client-oriented service to mental health clients. The Centre welcomes the support of students on-placement, carers and friends, volunteers and the local university. Two major projects were initiated: the "Acting Up" theatre group and the 'Writers Group'. These programs were fun, innovative and highly successful.