

Media Release

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Melbourne nurse & midwife recognised in national nursing awards for sensitive work in women's health

Today, HESTA announced Marie Jones — a Victorian nurse and midwife and advocate for preventing violence against women — as a Nurse of the Year finalist in the 2015 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards.

Working between the emergency department and the Well Women's De-infibulation Clinic at the Royal Women's Hospital, Ms Jones works in a sensitive area of women's health. Ms Jones treats women who have undergone female circumcision or infibulation, after undergoing the procedure in countries where the practice is culturally accepted.

Building rapport and trust with the women who visit the clinic is critical, due to the extremely sensitive and unique nature of the services, and Ms Jones has played a crucial role in providing a safe environment to encourage other women affected by female circumcision to seek out help.

Ms Jones has extensive experience working with women affected by female circumcision and is an advocate for these women, who are often refugees from countries such as Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan.

"Being there for women through all aspects of their health including pregnancy, miscarriage, and other gynaecological issues is something I'm passionate about," said Ms Jones.

"There's also the social aspect to the services we provide, which cover a wide range of quite confronting subjects. It's great to be able to speak about these issues in the open and provide education to those who need it.

"These women are often marginalised and have experienced both physical and psychological impacts as a result of female circumcision. Providing them with the best quality experience through support and education is my primary concern."

HESTA Australian Nursing Awards finalists are in the running for a share of \$30,000 in prizes, from proud awards sponsor **ME**.

Nurse of the Year and Outstanding Graduate Award winners will each receive a \$5,000 **ME** EveryDay transaction account and \$5,000 towards further education. The Team Innovation winner will receive a \$10,000 development grant.

ME CEO, Jamie McPhee, said, "We're delighted to give these outstanding individuals the opportunity to develop their careers, while also supporting innovative health programs which benefit the entire sector and community."

Winners will be announced at the HESTA Australian Nursing Awards dinner on Thursday, 15 October in Brisbane.

For more information about the awards visit hestaawards.com.au

Follow the Twitter conversation [@HESTANurseAwards](https://twitter.com/HESTANurseAwards)

*The 2015 HESTA Australian Nursing Awards is a HESTA initiative, run in partnership with the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) and proudly sponsored by the bank owned by industry super funds, **ME**.*

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