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Passion, empathy and innovation win aged care awards for excellence

Seven organisations and individuals from across Australia have been honoured with Awards for Excellence by Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA).

ACSA's National Awards for Excellence recognise outstanding contributions in the field of aged care.

ACSA CEO Greg Mundy said while the efforts of everyone who works in aged care deserve to be applauded, the award winners have been singled out for their unique and commendable achievements.

Individual Award: Richard Hearn, CEO Resthaven, **Malvern, South Australia:** "A true champion for aged care". Richard has been passionate and dedicated in furthering the cause of caring for older people, and enhancing their rights and image in Australian society over many years. He has driven Resthaven's *Positive Images Campaign* to influence how older people are portrayed, perceived and treated in the media and the community.

Employee Award: Victorian Brad Cooper, EA Community Packages Program Manager, Bapcare, **Camberwell, Victoria:** A dynamic and innovative leader of case management at a national level. Brad's passion to improve the health care sector has also resulted in two industry publications.

Volunteer Award: Mrs June Longmore, Barwon Health, **North Geelong, Victoria:** At 77 years of age, June is an amazing, cherished, awesome volunteer. "Show me a person who exemplifies "a volunteer" and, I'll show you June. And NO, you can't have her...she's all ours."

Trainee Award: Ms Amalia Araujo, Hostel Supervisor, Mecwacare "Noel Miller" Centre, **Glen Iris, Victoria:** Amalia is well liked by residents and colleagues for her compassion, professionalism, proactive enthusiasm and empathy. Amalia has continually displayed hope and enthusiasm, encouragement and passion in caring for the elderly.

Organisation Award: Amana Living, **Cottesloe, WA:** Amana Living has demonstrated strong leadership, innovation and excellence in its people management, customer service and environmental approach.

Industry Supporter Award: Management Advantage, **North Fitzroy, Victoria:** A leader in the aged care field. Management Advantage developed a Family Support Program which has provided for a personal structure to foster and maintain relationships between residents, families and care providers.

Media Award: Resthaven, **Malvern, South Australia:** Resthaven has understood the media and used it to great effect to challenge the native stereotypes of ageing; Resthaven is a place that respects the needs of those people in its care and treats them as individuals.

The awards will be presented at the ACSA National Conference – Get Up, Stand Up – in Perth tonight Monday, September 14.

Aged and Community Services Australia is the national peak body representing more than 1,100 church and charitable and community based organisations providing accommodation and care services to more than 700,000 older people, people with a disability and their carers.

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