

# Media Release

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 2019**



## ACH Group a finalist in 2019 HESTA Aged Care Awards

ACH Group's work to attract more nurses to the aged care sector has been recognised in the 2019 HESTA Aged Care Awards.

ACH Group's Student Placement Team is one of four national finalists in the Team Innovation category. A total of 12 finalists have been announced in the awards, which recognise Australia's most innovative and proactive aged care organisations, teams and individuals.

Samantha Manoel, Student Placement Manager at ACH Group, said the award provided recognition of the organisation's aim to attract more nursing students to work in aged care by developing a strategy to improve the experience students have during their university placements with ACH Group.

"We identified that negative stereotypes were a significant factor in the shortage of nurses working in the sector," Ms Manoel said. "We set out to develop a strategy to demonstrate first-hand to students that working in aged care can be a rewarding job and career."

The team has developed a number of student placement initiatives to change student perceptions, including a pre-placement education day, providing an informative online orientation, developing an induction booklet and conducting pre- and post-placement student evaluations. Since these changes in 2012, more than 4,000 students have had placements in ACH Group services.

"Post-placement feedback shows that students now consider aged care as a unique and dynamic work environment, with 68 per cent of students saying they were interested in working in aged care compared to only 40 per cent who said they were interested prior to their placement."

Ms Manoel said pre-placement education day touched on a range of areas including healthy ageing, dementia, the admissions process and relationship building. "We find that this day helps alleviate any stress or uncertainty about working in an aged care environment," she said. "Students are given an insight into all aspects of care from all disciplines, including allied health offerings and early intervention initiatives. We want people to understand that the aged care workplace is a place that's dynamic, and that it's about supporting people to live a good life."

HESTA CEO Debby Blakey said this year's finalists were selected for their outstanding compassion, leadership and innovation in improving services and standards of care in the aged care sector.

"This year's finalists have pushed the boundaries and developed innovative services and programs that rise to the challenge of providing high-quality care to the growing number of ageing Australians," Ms Blakey said.

Winners will be announced at the 2019 HESTA Aged Care Awards on 14 November 2019 in Adelaide.



*Caption: ACH Group's Student Placement Team is a finalist in the 2019 HESTA Aged Care Awards. Pictured L-R are Student Placement Administration Officer Kim Haden, Student Placement Manager Samantha Manoel and Head of Health and Wellness Services Kate Dobie.*

\*End Media Release\*

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## **About ACH Group**

ACH Group is a not-for-profit aged care organisation that has been offering services to support good lives for older people in South Australia since 1952. As well as accommodation options across Adelaide, the Fleurieu Peninsula and East Melbourne, the group offers a range of health, wellbeing, respite and support services, help at home and social activities. Our 1700 specialist staff and hundreds of volunteers share the belief that older people should be valued and respected, connected to their communities and in control of their lives.

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