



Excellence Awards

2026 Ceremony Program

Southern NSW
Local Health District



Our CORE Values



Collaboration



Openness



Respect



Empowerment

Artist: Deborah Stiles (2023)

Acknowledgement of Country

In the true spirit of Reconciliation and through embracing the values of collaboration, openness, respect and empowerment, Southern NSW Local Health District acknowledges and pays respect to the traditional custodians of the land; the Gundungurra, Ngambri, Ngarigo, Ngunnawal and Yuin tribes.



Welcome to Southern's 2026 Excellence Awards.

Today is about recognising the people and teams who go above and beyond for our communities. Every one of our 250 nominees has shown care and a deep commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of others.

Across Southern, our staff face complex challenges every day. What makes the difference is how you respond - with collaboration, creativity and a strong focus on patients, residents, clients and each other.

Today is an opportunity to pause and acknowledge the impact of your work. Whether you are delivering care on the frontline, supporting services behind the scenes, or leading improvement across the system, your contribution matters to our community.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate a colleague for today's awards. Most importantly, thank you to all of our staff for the difference you make, every day.

Margaret Bennett OAM

Chief Executive

Southern NSW Local Health District.

Our program



10.30am	Acknowledgment of Country Chief Executive's Welcome Award presentations Small Acts of Kindness Award Corporate Support Staff Member of the Year Elevate Emerging Leader Medical Officer of the Year Volunteer of the Year Allied Health Professional of the Year Midwife of the Year Nurse of the Year Performance by the Cooma Hospital staff choir
12.00pm	<i>Lunch</i>
1.00pm	In conversation with Susan Pearce AM Award presentations continue ACI Rural Innovation Award Environmental Sustainability Award Closing The Gap Award Health Equity Award Award for Excellence in the Provision of Mental Health Services Health Research and Digital Innovation Award Keeping People Healthy Award Patient Safety Award People and Culture Award Transforming Patient Experience Award Commitment to Service Award Board Chair Award Chief Executive Award Dr Allan Hawke AC Award for Outstanding Leadership
3.00pm	<i>Close</i>

Our guest

Susan Pearce AM
Secretary,
NSW Health



Susan Pearce AM was appointed Secretary of NSW Health in March 2022. She leads one of Australia's largest public health systems, supporting more than 180,000 staff to deliver care to communities across NSW.

Susan has more than 30 years' experience in healthcare. She began her career as a registered nurse in Broken Hill and has held a range of senior roles across NSW Health, including Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer and Deputy Secretary for Patient Experience and System Performance.

Let's get social

Share your photos of today's event using #WeAreSouthern. No camera? No problem! Pop by our photo booth to snap a pic with your colleagues and grab a print or two.



Small Acts of Kindness Award

Kindness lives here at Southern. It lives in the decisions we make and what we do every single day. Whether it's a small gesture, a kind word, a sympathetic ear or a moment of warmth - small acts of kindness make a big difference. The Small Acts of Kindness Award recognises an individual who makes a meaningful difference through simple, everyday actions that show care, compassion and respect.

2026 Nominees

Andrea Scroope

Registered Midwife
Moruya

Andrew McLaughlin

Maintenance Officer
Queanbeyan

Brittany Hughes

Dietitian
Goulburn

Chaya Rao

Clinical Psychologist
Queanbeyan

Davina Hughes

Volunteer
Cardiac Rehabilitation
Bega Valley

Gabrielle Jackson

Registered Nurse
Paediatrics
South East Regional Hospital

Jacqueline Carney

Administration Officer
Community Health &
Ambulatory Outpatients
Goulburn

Jason Morris

Clinical Nurse Consultant
Disaster Response & Recovery
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Jenny Bannam

Volunteer
Cardiac Rehabilitation
Bega Valley

Julie Hogan

Health Information Coordinator
Corporate Services

Kayla Kennedy

Social Worker
Moruya

Introducing the Emblem of Kindness

The **Emblem of Kindness** is a special NSW Health staff recognition program to celebrate the small acts of kindness happening across our system every day.

The Emblem celebrates individuals who consistently lead with kindness in their daily interactions. Emblem recipients are personally selected by Chief Executives and Deputy Secretaries across the NSW Health system. It is a continuation of the **Small Acts of Kindness** campaign, recognising meaningful moments that make a real difference for patients, families, and colleagues.

**Lara Preston**

Executive Assistant
Finance & Performance

Marty Garner

Technical Support Officer,
Goulburn
*Information Services Unit
Finance & Performance*

Meena Acharya Paudel

Registered Nurse
Chisholm Ross Centre
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Melissa Small

Operational Support Officer
Goulburn

Rechelle Jones

Aboriginal Health Worker
Safeguards
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Reginald Rowley

Stores
Cooma

Susie Proudman

Administration Officer
Pambula

2025 Winner**Care and Kindness Award****Clare Calo**

Physiotherapist
Queanbeyan

Corporate Support Staff Member of the Year

This award celebrates a non-clinical staff member whose dedication, professionalism and hard work strengthens our services, supports our people and brings our vision to life.

2026 Nominees

Alan Hards

Wardsperson
Pambula

Alan Macdonald

DeliverEASE Inventory Manager
Finance & Performance

Alex Murphy

Executive Assistant
Inland Network

Andrew Lynch

Project Manager
*Transformation Office
Office of the Chief Executive*

Brian Edwardson

Health and Security
Assistant Manager
Inland Network

Brodie Marjoribanks

Project Officer
*Transformation Office
Office of the Chief Executive*

Danie George

District Workforce
Governance Partner
People & Culture

Elouise Henderson

Administration Officer
Renal and Oncology
District Services

Judy Kennedy

ICT Project Manager
*Information Services Unit
Finance & Performance*

Lara Preston

Executive Assistant
Finance & Performance

Liz Parker

Senior HR Business Partner
People & Culture

Louise Morrow

Clinical Support Officer
Community Health
Bega Valley

Maria Martinez

Workspace Delivery Manager
*Information Services Unit
Finance & Performance*

Mel Cahill

Strategic Procurement Lead
Finance & Performance

Niccola Follett

District Outpatients Manager
Corporate Services

Robert Coats

Senior Manager Safety & Security
People & Culture

Sandra Abraham

Administration Officer, MERIT
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Shannan Craig

Risk Manager
Governance, Risk & Audit

Sharon Cashman

Clinical Support Officer
Community Health
Goulburn

Shelley McMenamin

Corporate Information Manager
*Information Services Unit
Finance & Performance*

Sheryl Greentree

Executive Assistant
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Suzanne Burton

Recruitment Partner
People & Culture

Zoe Marshman

Operational Support Officer
South East Regional Hospital

2025 Winner**Tracy Ryan**

Manager Workforce Systems
and Analytics
People & Culture

Elevate Emerging Leader Award

The Elevate Emerging Leader Award recognises an individual who is early in their leadership journey and demonstrates resilience, initiative and a strong commitment to improving the experience of staff, patients and the wider community. This award reflects the spirit of the Elevate program, which supports the development of emerging leaders across Southern.

2026 Nominees

Benjamin Evans

Health and Security
Assistant Manager
Goulburn

Cameron Harris

Clinical Nurse Educator
Inpatient Unit
Queanbeyan

Jody Eldridge

Clinical Leader, Eurobodalla
Adult Community Mental
Health *Mental Health and
Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Kelly Archer

Nurse Unit Manager Emergency
Department Queanbeyan

Lisa Clements

Practice Development Manager
Nursing & Midwifery

Marty Garner

Technical Support Officer,
Goulburn
*Information Services Unit
Finance & Performance*

Monique Perkins

District Eating Disorder Coordinator
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Nicole Reid

Nurse Unit Manager
Sub Acute Rehabilitation Unit
Moruya

Nikkei Simon

Manager Aboriginal Workforce &
Development
Aboriginal Health

Rebecca Gower

Mental Health Clinician
Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*



Elevate describes the way we work together at Southern. It signifies our passion and responsibility to focus on lifting our people and performance to deliver the highest level of support and care that our staff, patients, and community deserve.

‘Together as One’ is our mantra to be united in delivering high quality, safe care to support our communities to lead healthy lives. We depend on the engagement of around 4000 staff, doctors and volunteers, which empowers us to build an organisation where our patients, consumers, our people and community can see and feel the difference in how we provide care and support.

Rochelle Woolfe

Deputy Director of
Nursing & Midwifery
Cooma

Sarah Freitag-Finau

Clinical Nurse Consultant
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

William Grootenboer

Registered Nurse
Community Health
Cooma

2025 Winner Emerging Leader Award

Fauve D'Souza

Senior Eating Disorder Clinician
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

2025 Winner Elevate Award

Emily Guy

Manager Community Health
and Integrated Care
Inland Network

Medical Officer of the Year

A new category for 2026, this award celebrates a medical practitioner who consistently goes above and beyond to improve patient outcomes, support colleagues and contribute to a positive, safe and collaborative healthcare environment.

2026 Nominees

Dr Anindya Banerjee
Consultant Physician
Goulburn

Dr Arnab Banerjee
Director Anaesthetics
Goulburn

Dr Bronwyn Henderson
Medical Officer, ED
Eurobodalla

Dr James Blogg
Clinical Director AOD
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Dr Luke Mitchell
GP VMO
Eurobodalla

Dr Marielle Ruigrok
Director Emergency Medicine
Queanbeyan

Dr Nathan Oates
Anaesthetist and
Director of Prevocational
Education and Training
South East Regional Hospital

Dr Nicole Maitin-Casalis
FACEM, ED
Eurobodalla

Dr Nicolie Regner
Medical Oncologist
Moruya

Dr Pavan Bhandari
Clinical Director Mental Health
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Dr Swati Mahajan
Obstetrician
Goulburn

Dr Vimbai Kapuya
Rural Generalist
Yass

Volunteer of the Year

This award celebrates an individual volunteer who gives their time selflessly, supports others with compassion and dignity, and inspires others through their actions.

2026 Nominees

Debbie Hall
Volunteer, Cardiac Rehabilitation
Bega Valley

Mark Browne
Consumer and Carer Advisory Group
Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drugs

Richard Elliott
Patient Transport Volunteer
Braidwood

Shirley Rixon OAM
Volunteer, Pambula Hospital Auxiliary
and Dementia and Delirium Program Volunteer
Pambula

2025 Winner

Darien Jirrup-Jirrup McLeod
Eurobodalla Palliative Care
Volunteer

Allied Health Leader of the Year

This award recognises an allied health professional who demonstrates exceptional leadership grounded in teamwork, innovation, service, quality, compassion and integrity.



2026 Winner

Gillian Isaac

Director Priority Programs, Partnerships
and Senior Allied Health Lead
Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drugs

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Caila Rothwell

Dietitian
Head of Department
Coastal Network

Clare Schultejohann

Senior Social Worker, Oncology
Goulburn

Elizabeth Keir

MERIT Team Leader
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Gillian Isaac

Director Priority Programs,
Partnerships and Senior Allied
Health Lead
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Larisa Asimus

Occupational Therapist
Head of Department
Bega Valley

Larry Sy

Senior Physiotherapist
Queanbeyan

Natasha Neppl & Cathy Shorten

Inland North Speech Pathology
Heads of Department
Inland Network

Rosslyn Twarloh

Social Work
Adult Survivor Program
*Integrated Violence, Abuse
& Neglect Services*

Zeeshan Naseer

Chief Pharmacist
Inland Network

2025 Winner

Deanne Manie

Dietitian
Coastal Network

Allied Health Team of the Year

This award celebrates teams that improve both patient and staff experience, foster strong collaboration and demonstrate excellence in person-centred, safe and compassionate care.



2026 Winner

Disaster Response & Recovery

Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drugs

Team Leaders: Gemma Issaakidis & Lola Erinle

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Radiography

*BreastScreen NSW
Greater Southern*

Brighter Beginnings

Priority Populations
District Services

Disaster Response & Recovery

*Mental Health and Alcohol & Other
Drugs*

Eurobodalla Allied Health Student

Educator Team
Eurobodalla

Goulburn Hospital Pharmacy

Goulburn

Inland Speech Pathology

Leadership Team
Inland Network

Pain Coordination Service

Allied Health & Community
Inland & Coastal Networks

Palliative Care Program

Palliative Care
District Services

Queanbeyan Physiotherapy

Queanbeyan

Early Career Allied Health Professional of the Year

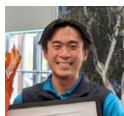
This award recognises an allied health professional who has demonstrated exceptional potential, professionalism and commitment during their first two years of practice.



2026 Winner

Jemima McNeill
Occupational Therapist
Eurobodalla

Announced prior to ceremony



2026 Honourable Mention

Matthew Chung, Speech Pathologist *Goulburn & Crookwell*

2026 Nominees

Emma Trinh
Clinical Pharmacist
Goulburn

Jemima McNeil
Occupational Therapist
Eurobodalla

Oluwaseun Akilo
Social Worker
Cooma

Matthew Chung
Speech Pathologist
Goulburn & Crookwell

2025 Winner

Laura McTernan
Occupational Therapist
Inland North

Aboriginal Allied Health Professional of the Year

This award celebrates someone who proudly represents Aboriginal allied health within Southern and champions culturally safe, respectful and community-driven care.



2026 Winner

Jodie Harkness
Aboriginal Health Worker
Goulburn

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Jodie Harkness
Aboriginal Health Worker
Goulburn

Jake Gee
Aboriginal Mental Health Clinician
Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drugs

2025 Winner

David Thomas
Senior Aboriginal Clinician
*Integrated Violence, Abuse
& Neglect Services*

Allied Health Assistant/ Technician/Support Person of the Year

This award recognises someone essential to the smooth running of allied health care, who plays a vital role in delivering safe, high-quality and person-centred care for patients, families and carers.



2026 Winner

Katherine Blake
Pharmacy Purchasing Officer
District-wide

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Maree Linfoot
Pharmacy Technician
South East Regional Hospital

Chelsea Hindle
Pharmacy Assistant
Goulburn

Sarah Edwardson
Pharmacy Assistant
Goulburn

Katherine Blake
Pharmacy Purchasing Officer
District-wide

Troy Wilson
Peer Support Worker
South East Regional Hospital

Chloe Van Gool
Allied Health Assistant
Physiotherapy
Queanbeyan

2025 Winner

Shellie Berryman
Allied Health Assistant
Physiotherapy
South East Regional Hospital

Allied Health Researcher of the Year

This award celebrates contributions to research that enhances allied health practice, improves patient outcomes and strengthens our health services.



2026 Winner

Isabella Randell
Emergency Department Pharmacist
Goulburn

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Isabella Randell
Emergency Department Pharmacist
Goulburn

Lola Erinle
Acting Manager Disaster Response & Recovery
Goulburn

Dr Katrina Anderson
Aged Care Evaluation Unit
Queanbeyan

2025 Winner

Michelle Grigg
Occupational Therapist
Inland North

Allied Health Educator of the Year

This award celebrates an educator who is committed to improving clinical standards, elevating the human experience and empowering the allied health workforce.



2026 Winner

Marcella Levey
Allied Health Educator
District-wide

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Ayla Rudgley
Pharmacist
Goulburn

Lindsay Edwards
Pharmacist
Eurobodalla

Marcella Levey
Allied Health Educator
District-wide

Allied Health Professional of the Year

This award recognises an individual who makes an outstanding contribution to clinical excellence, leadership, education and workplace culture.

2026 Nominees

Andrea Allan
Senior Speech Pathologist
Queanbeyan & Goulburn

Bente Hart
Pharmacist
Braidwood

Chaya Rao
Clinical Psychologist
Queanbeyan

Dr Helen Nikolas
Senior Dietitian
Transitional Aged Care Program
(TACP) & Renal
South East Regional Hospital

Janet Lewis
Social Work
Deputy Head of Department
South East Regional Hospital

Kylie Langbein
Dietitian
Goulburn

Lalage Riddell
Pharmacist
South East Regional Hospital

Polly Witts
Senior Pharmacist
Cooma

Ryley Jenkins
Child Wellbeing Coordinator and
Joint Child Response Program
Health Clinician
*Integrated Violence, Abuse
& Neglect Services*

2025 Winner

Gemma Issaakidis
Clinical Psychologist
*Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Nursing & Midwifery Leadership Award

This award celebrates a leader who inspires excellence, drives improvement and creates environments where patients, families and staff feel supported, respected and empowered.



2026 Winner | Midwifery Leadership Award

Gemma O'Sullivan
Acting Clinical Midwifery Consultant
Nursing & Midwifery

Announced prior to ceremony



2026 Winner | Nursing Leadership Award

Kamal Singh
Nurse Unit Manager,
Community Health
Queanbeyan

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Cameron Harris
Clinical Nurse Educator
Inpatient Unit
Queanbeyan

Caroline Cook
Diabetes Nurse Practitioner
Pambula

Darci Masters
Nurse Unit Manager, Theatres
South East Regional Hospital

Gemma O'Sullivan
A/Clinical Midwifery Consultant
Nursing & Midwifery

Kamal Singh
Nurse Unit Manager,
Community Health
Queanbeyan

Katherine Stock
Registered Midwife
Queanbeyan

Kelly-Anne Knight
Clinical Nurse Consultant
Infection Control
Nursing & Midwifery

Melissa Scott
Clinical Nurse Educator
Emergency Department
Goulburn

Rose Roche
Registered Nurse
Emergency Department
Eurobodalla

Sarah McDonald
Clinical Nurse Specialist
Surgical Outpatients
Eurobodalla

2025 Winner

Kim Patton
Nurse Unit Manager, Hospital in
the Home & Community Health
Goulburn

Nursing and/or Midwifery Team of the Year

This award celebrates teams that improve both patient and staff experience, foster strong collaboration and demonstrate excellence in person-centred, safe and compassionate care.



2026 Winner

ECAT in Action: Leading the Way

Louise Casey, Viv Chapman,
Donna Skelly & Danielle Smith
Nursing & Midwifery

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

**ECAT in Action:
Leading the Way**
Nursing & Midwifery

Maternity Unit
South East Regional Hospital
Coastal Network

**Wellbeing Health In-reach
Nursing (WHIN)**
Priority Populations
District Services

2025 Winner

Community Health Nursing
Nursing & Midwifery

New to Practice Nurse or Midwife of the Year

This award celebrates a newly graduated Registered Nurse (RN) or Registered Midwife (RM) who has demonstrated exceptional potential during their first year of practice.



2026 Winner

Courtney Hughes

Registered Nurse, Emergency Department
Cooma

Announced prior to ceremony

2026 Nominees

Courtney Hughes
Registered Nurse
Emergency Department
Cooma

2025 Winner

Stephanie Merton

Registered Nurse, Mental Health
South East Regional Hospital

Midwife of the Year

This award celebrates a midwife who delivers safe, high-quality and compassionate woman-centred care to create positive experiences across the maternity journey.

2026 Nominees

Diane Hurrell

Registered Midwife
Goulburn

Elizabeth (Liz) Perks

Registered Midwife
Yass

Gemma O'Sullivan

Registered Midwife
Cooma

Gemma Pearce

Registered Midwife
Queanbeyan

Nicky Simpson

Registered Midwife
Moruya

2025 Winner

Elizabeth (Liz) Perks

Registered Midwife
Yass

Nurse of the Year

The Nurse of the Year Award recognises an Assistant in Nursing (AIN), Enrolled Nurse (EN), Registered Nurse (RN), Transitional Nurse Practitioner (TNP) or Nurse Practitioner (NP) who has made an outstanding contribution to delivering and coordinating safe, high-quality and compassionate patient care.

2026 Nominees

Danielle Smith

Clinical Nurse Consultant
Paediatrics
Nursing & Midwifery

Kirsten Beerworth

Credentialed Diabetes Educator
Goulburn

Melissa Scott

Clinical Nurse Educator
Emergency Department
Goulburn

Penelope Lowe

Registered Nurse
Transitional Aged Care Program (TACP)
Queanbeyan

Rose Roche

Registered Nurse
Emergency Department
Eurobodalla

Sarah McDonald

Clinical Nurse Specialist
Surgical Outpatients
Eurobodalla

Sarah Pike

Registered Nurse
Perioperative Services
Goulburn

Taylor Farrell

Clinical Nurse Consultant
Sexual Assault Service
Integrated Violence, Abuse & Neglect Services

2025 Winner

Emma Turner

Transitional Nurse Practitioner
Eurobodalla

ACI Rural Innovation Award

The Agency for Clinical Innovation (ACI) Rural Innovation Awards recognise and reward innovation and capture models of care which have potential for broader implementation across other health sectors.

They are presented at the annual quality awards of the eight rural Local Health Districts. The winner is selected by the ACI from nominations put forward by Southern's Transformation Office, drawn from the pool of Excellence Awards nominations.

The awards are judged by the Rural Health Network on the following criteria:

- Innovation, creativity and originality
- Effective partnerships
- Relevance and sustainability
- Transferability
- System-wide potential
- Value.



Celebrating innovation

You can read about all the award-winning projects on the Innovation Exchange, highlighting solutions that can be adapted to suit local healthcare challenges without the need to duplicate work that has already been done.

Explore innovation at aci.health.nsw.gov.au/ie

2025 Winner

**Modernising Rural Healthcare:
Virtual Antimicrobial
Stewardship Rounding in
Action**
Pharmacy
District-wide

Environmental Sustainability Award

This award recognises work that strengthens environmental sustainability in our health service - whether through smarter use of resources, greener facilities, low-carbon models of care or solutions that support long-term environmental, social and health benefits.

2026 Nominees

Eurobodalla Cancer Care Centre

Eurobodalla

Team Leader: Catherine Maiden

Gloves Off!

Infection Prevention & Control

District-wide

Team Leader: Kelly-Anne Knight

Sterilising Services Endoscopy

Storage Extension

Corporate Services &

Asset Management

District-wide

Team Leaders: Roel Castillo

& Nicholas Mason

Closing the Gap Award

This award recognises projects, programs or initiatives that demonstrate excellence in Aboriginal healthcare through strong partnerships, cultural safety, and approaches that support better health outcomes for Aboriginal people in Southern.

2026 Nominees

**Aboriginal Emergency
Department (ED) Dashboard:
Using data to change lives**

Aboriginal Health

Team Leader: Andrew Thorek

Aboriginal Health Promotion

Priority Populations &

Aboriginal Health

Team Leader: Jennifer Mozina

**First Connections: Identifying
Aboriginal women and babies for
culturally safe care in Goulburn**

Goulburn Base Hospital &

Aboriginal Health

Team Leader: Rebecca Hosey

**Respecting the Difference:
Locally-led cultural
responsiveness training**

Aboriginal Health

Team Leader: Nikkei Simon

2025 Winner
Physiotherapy
Coastal Network

Health Equity Award

New to Southern's Excellence Awards in 2026, the Health Equity Award recognises programs, initiatives or projects that successfully overcome barriers to healthcare and improve outcomes for a defined group or population.

2026 Nominees

Aboriginal Health Promotion
*Priority Populations & Aboriginal
Health*

Team Leader: Jennifer Mozina

**Aged Care Outreach Service
Project**

Transformation Office

Team Leader: Andrew Lynch

**Bombala 'Getting better with age'
community event**

Population Health

Team Leader: Jennifer Mozina

**Expanding Hospital in the Home
(HITH) and Infusion Services**

Nursing & Midwifery

Team Leader: Danielle Smith

**Indigenous Chronic Disease
Equity and Access Outreach
Program**

*Single Point of Care & Aboriginal
Health*

Team Leader: Rebecca Armstrong

**Magistrates Early Referral Into
Treatment (MERIT)**

*Mental Health and Alcohol & Other
Drugs*

Team Leader: Elizabeth Keir

Award for Excellence in the Provision of Mental Health Services

This award recognises programs, initiatives or service improvements that demonstrate best practice, strengthen prevention and early intervention, and create better experiences and outcomes for consumers, carers and families.

2026 Nominees

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS): becoming a district-wide specialist service

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

Team Leader: Jenni Hudson

Consumer and Carer Partnership in MHAOD

Priority Programs & Partnerships

Team Leader: Gillian Isaac

Creative Connections Art Therapy

Kenmore Hospital, Goulburn

Team Leader: Rachael Rubic

Dine with Dignity

Chisholm Ross Centre, Goulburn

Team Leader: Kimberley Cochrane

Disaster Response & Recovery

Priority Programs & Partnerships

Team Leader: Lola Erinle

Improving the physical health of mental health

Clinical Excellence & Innovation

Team Leader: Gemma Issaakidis

Improving safety planning

Mental Health Acute Access

Team Leader: Tracy Bolton

Mental State Deterioration Pathway

Recognising & Responding to Acute Deterioration Committee

Team Leader: Tasha Lutz

Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP)

Priority Programs & Partnerships

Team Leader: Gillian Isaac

Safe Haven & Suicide Prevention Outreach Team (SPOT) Student Program

Towards Zero Suicide Initiative

Team Leader: Kira van Klink

See, Think Act Relational Security Project

Mental Health Inpatient Units,

Goulburn and South East

Regional Hospitals

Team Leader: Anita Bizzotto

South East Regional Hospital Mental Health Inpatient Unit Walking Group

South East Regional Hospital

Team Leader: Anita Bizzotto

Suicide Prevention Training

Towards Zero Suicide Initiative

Team Leader: Kira van Klink

Towards Zero Suicide Initiative Scorecard

Towards Zero Suicide Initiative

Team Leader: Kira van Klink

2025 Winner

Mental Health Acute Access

Mental Health and Alcohol & Other Drugs

Health Research & Digital Innovation Award

This award recognises projects, programs or initiatives that use research, data, digital technologies or innovative models of care to improve outcomes, enhance safety and support better experiences for patients, carers and staff.

2026 Nominees

Aboriginal Emergency Department (ED) Dashboard: Using data to change lives

Aboriginal Health

Team Leader: Andrew Thorek

Digital Forms

Corporate Information

Information Services Unit

Finance & Performance

Team Leader: Shelley McMenamin

Pain Management in Labour: Effective epidural care

Maternity Unit, Goulburn

Team Leader: Rebecca Hosey

Understanding participant recruitment in NSW

Research Office

Team Leader: Dr Pramesh Ghimire

2025 Winner

Virtual Swallow Assessment Project

Speech Pathology

Inland South

Keeping People Healthy Award

This award recognises innovative work that strengthens the health and wellbeing of people living in Southern, showing impact, collaboration and solutions tailored to the needs of our communities.

2026 Nominees

Bombala 'Getting better with age' community event

Population Health

Team Leader: Jennifer Mozina

Evaluation of the Falls Prevention Program at Queanbeyan

Physiotherapy, Queanbeyan

Team Leader: Larry Sy

Health Promoting Libraries Framework Project

Population Health

Team Leader: Jennifer Mozina

Kenmore Walking Group

Kenmore Hospital, Goulburn

Mental Health and Alcohol

& Other Drugs

Team Leader: Vanessa Chapman

Safer Patient Outcomes Through Allergy Assessment

Pharmacy

Team Leaders: Isabella Randell &

Zeeshan Naseer

Southern NSW Alcohol and Other Drugs Service

Mental Health and Alcohol

& Other Drugs

Team Leader: Kelly Winter

Transport for Health Volunteer Transport

District Services

Team Leader: Leanne Backhouse

2025 Winner

Modernising Rural Healthcare:

Virtual Antimicrobial Stewardship Rounding in Action

Pharmacy

District-wide

Patient Safety Award

This award celebrates work that improves safety systems, strengthens clinical practice, supports transparency and learning, and delivers safer, more reliable care in all settings.

2026 Nominees

Clinical Products Team

Finance & Performance

Team Leader: Debbie McIntosh

End PJ Paralysis

Pambula Hospital & South East Regional Hospital

Team Leader: Susan Rowley

Hypothermia Prevention Group

Operating Theatres

Goulburn Base Hospital

Team Leader: Katrina White

Medication management for inpatients with dysphagia

Speech Pathology

Inland North

Team Leader: Natasha Neppl

Safer Patient Outcomes Through Allergy Assessment

Pharmacy

Team Leaders: Isabella Randell & Zeeshan Naseer

Specialist Outpatient Reform Project

Corporate Services

Team Leader: Niccola Follett

Violence Prevention & Management: protecting staff and patients

People & Culture

Team Leaders: Annette Nichols and Melaine Ison

2025 Winner
Hospital in the Home
Queanbeyan Hospital

People and Culture Award

This award recognises projects, programs or initiatives that strengthen our workforce, improve workplace culture, and support staff to deliver their best.

2026 Nominees

AFM Online Activation Project

Asset Management

Finance & Performance

Team Leader: Sasha-Merelle Berryman

District Clinical Coding Team

Finance & Performance

Team Leader: Melissa McCahon

Goulburn Wellbeing Committee

Goulburn Base Hospital

Team Leaders: Marty Garner & Melissa Small

Improving diet ordering at Yass District Hospital

Speech Pathology

Inland North

Team Leader: Natasha Neppl

Queanbeyan Hospital After Hours Nursing Team

Queanbeyan Hospital

Team Leader: Amanda Sibley

Respecting the Difference: locally-led cultural responsiveness training

Aboriginal Health

Team Leader: Nikkei Simon

Southern NSW Paediatric Dietetic Support Group

Dietetics

South East Regional Hospital

Team Leader: Deanna Manie

2025 Winner
Trauma-informed Paediatric Assessment Notes
Speech Pathology
Inland South

Transforming Patient Experience Award

This award celebrates work that empowers patients, strengthens shared decision-making, enhances access to patient-centred care and embeds the voices of patients, families and carers in planning, delivery and evaluation.

2026 Nominees

Adult Survivor Program

Integrated Violence, Abuse & Neglect Services

Team Leader: Rosslyn Twarloh

Care Without the Miles

Nursing & Midwifery

Team Leader: Danielle Smith

Creative Connections Art Therapy

*Kenmore Hospital, Goulburn
Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs*

Team Leader: Rachael Rubic

District Patient Flow Unit

District Services

Team Leader: Kylie Williams

Elevating Surgical Services

Surgical Services

Team Leaders: Rochelle Woolf
& Monica Alcock

Eurobodalla Sub-Acute Rehabilitation Unit

Eurobodalla Regional Hospital

Team Leader: Nicole Reid

From Voices to Value:

**Transforming care through
patient-reported measures**

Clinical Governance Unit

Team Leader: Fiona Dinsmore

Indigenous Chronic Disease Equity and Access Outreach Program

*Single Point of Care
& Aboriginal Health*

Team Leader: Rebecca Armstrong

Regional Nerve Block Sticker

*Operating Theatres
Goulburn*

Team Leader: Katrina White

Your Experience Matters:

Responding to patient feedback

Clinical Governance Unit

Team Leader: Terence Joe

2025 Winner

SmartChain Traceability

*Clinical Products Team
Finance & Performance*

Commitment to Service Award

The Commitment to Service Award recognises an individual who consistently demonstrates exceptional dedication to supporting colleagues, patients, carers or community members. They embody the true spirit of public service, and see their role as a privilege and honours the trust placed in them through their everyday actions.

The recipient of this award is selected by the Chief Executive from nominations submitted in other categories. This award celebrates work that strengthens the culture of Southern and has a positive, lasting impact on the people we serve.

2025 Winner

Victoria Holland

*Associate Director People Services
People & Culture*

Board Chair Award

The Board Chair Award recognises an individual whose achievements shine above and beyond all award categories. This honour highlights remarkable contributions that strengthen patient care, staff wellbeing and the organisation as a whole. It celebrates extraordinary efforts, unique accomplishments or significant impact that deserves special recognition.

The recipient of this award is selected by the Board Chair from nominations submitted across all other categories. This award acknowledges people who demonstrate exceptional commitment, leadership or innovation - work that reflects the very best of Southern.



Elizabeth (Beth) Hoskins
Board Chair

Beth joined Southern's Board in 2017, and became Chair in January 2023. She has a long-term executive career in accountancy and business advisory services. She is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA), Public Practice certificate holder and member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD). She is actively involved in the not-for-profit sector.

2025 Winner
Research Office
Transformation Office

Chief Executive Award

The Chief Executive Award recognises a team or project whose achievements stand out across all award categories and demonstrate exceptional commitment to the health and wellbeing of the people of Southern NSW. This honour highlights extraordinary contributions that strengthen our culture, improve care, and support the long-term success of the organisation.

The recipient of this award is selected by the Chief Executive from nominations submitted in other categories. This award celebrates work that goes above and beyond - showing leadership, innovation, dedication or impact that sets a new standard for excellence in Southern.



Margaret Bennett OAM
Chief Executive

Margaret joined Southern in March 2020. She was previously CEO of Northeast Health Wangaratta in Victoria for nine years. Margaret's broad-based clinical background includes senior executive appointments in health and hospital services in NSW, Victoria, and WA with a proven track record as an experienced, capable, highly visible, and successful health leader.

2025 Winners
**Nurse Unit Manager/
Maternity Unit
Manager Pathways**
*Nursing & Midwifery
and
DeliverEASE
Finance & Performance*

Dr Allan Hawke AC Award for Outstanding Leadership

The Dr Allan Hawke AC Outstanding Leader Award recognises an exceptional individual who demonstrates outstanding leadership, collaboration and commitment to strengthening our culture and performance.

2026 Nominees

Anna Jolly

Manager, Partnerships
Research and Innovation
Transformation Office
Office of the Chief Executive

Brad Scotcher

General Manager
Coastal Network

Cheryl McMillan

Community Nursing
Queanbeyan

Clint Wilkie

Manager Allied Health
& Community
Coastal Network

Damien Kennedy

eMR/eMeds Team Leader
Information Services Unit
Finance & Performance

Danielle Hansen

Executive Assistant
Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs

Dr Marielle Ruigrok

Director Emergency Medicine
Queanbeyan

Gillian Isaac

Director, Priority Programs &
Partnerships and Senior Allied
Health Lead
Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs

Helen Caddey

Nurse Unit Manager, Medical Ward
Goulburn

Jenni Hudson

Manager, Child & Adolescent
Mental Health
Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs

Dr Allan Hawke AC (1948-2022)

This award is named in honour of Dr Allan Hawke AC, a distinguished public servant who made a significant contribution to Southern as Chair of our Board.

Educated at Queanbeyan public schools, at the Australian National University he obtained a first class honours degree and a Doctorate of Philosophy. Allan was appointed as our Board Chair in 2017 and was passionately devoted to health care delivery in our region.



Jo Graham

Nurse Manager, Staff Safety and
Restrictive Practice Reduction
Mental Health and Alcohol
& Other Drugs

Julie Hogan

Health Information Coordinator
Corporate Services

Katrina Gray

Site Manager / Director of Nursing
Yass

Robert Coats

Senior Manager Safety & Security
People & Culture

Shannan Craig

Risk Manager
Governance, Risk & Audit

Toni Macdonald

Data Operations Manager
Finance & Performance

Zeeshan Naseer

Chief Pharmacist
Inland Network

2025 Winner

Alice McKellar

District Director Pharmacy

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Thank you

Emma Woolley
2026 Excellence Awards Coordinator

Ian Campbell
Master of Ceremonies

Shellie Burgess
*Rural Health Network Manager
Agency for Clinical Innovation*

2026 Excellence Awards Working Party

Local Liaison Officers

Ashley Lawrence
NSW Health Awards

Jaala Burley
Excellence in Nursing & Midwifery Awards

Kerryn Maher
Excellence in Allied Health Awards

Anna Jolly
ACI Rural Innovation Awards

Judges

Hannah Bird
Ian Campbell
Terry Clout PSM
Heather Doolan
Sarah Galton
Suzanne Gearing
Jeremy Gilchrist
Gillian Isaac
Peter Leach
Dr Fiona Mackie
Kerryn Maher
Prof. Pooshan Navathé
Kassandra Packwood
Lauren Rodger
Brad Scotcher
Summa Stephens
Christine Welsh

NSW Health

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that make a big difference.



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