



## MEDIA RELEASE

4 August 2015

### QLD aged care agency recognised for its 'humanistic' approach

An agency providing aged care services to people at home, has been recognised for adopting a 'humanistic' approach that gives clients greater independence and control over their daily activities.

Co.As.It Community Services Inc. in Albion developed its "Because We Care – A Humanistic Approach" program to go beyond simply providing services to support the daily living needs of older people, to helping them achieve their personal goals.

The Program is one of five finalists in the Outstanding Organisation category of the 2015 HESTA Aged Care Awards. The Awards recognise those in the aged care sector who make an exceptional contribution to improving the quality of life of older Australians.

Co.As.It. Community Services Director, Dina Ranieri, said the Program ensures that services being provided enhance a client's individuality, autonomy and control in creating positive changes in their life.

"Our new model of providing aged care and support services to older people at home, incorporates wellness and fulfilment," Ms Ranieri said.

"One client who was bed-ridden and dependent on her elderly husband, expressed her ambition to regain her mobility and autonomy."

Following discussions with her family, care workers and allied health professionals, a decision was made to provide intensive support services and allied health care over a six-week period.

"Our client realised her dream of walking independently, reducing her anxiety and instilling a new interest in life as she continues to look after herself and her husband."

Mrs Ranieri said the agency made a concerted effort to re-educate staff in the new ways of working, seeing people as individuals with personal aspirations and goals.

"More than 100 care workers and team leaders were provided with formal training on maximising the potential of clients to achieve higher levels of wellness and autonomy," she said.

Finalists are in the running for a share of the \$30,000 prize pool provided by proud sponsor, industry super funds' owned bank, **ME**.

The Team Innovation and Outstanding Organisation Award winners each receive a \$10,000 development grant. The Individual Distinction Award winner will receive a \$5,000 **ME EveryDay** transaction account and \$5,000 towards further education.

**ME** CEO, Jamie McPhee, said, "we're delighted to give these outstanding individuals, the opportunity to develop and continue to progress their profession, and support innovative health programs that ultimately benefit the entire industry and community."

The winners will be revealed at the HESTA Aged Care Awards dinner on Thursday 27 August in Canberra.

Learn more about the Awards at [hestaawards.com.au](http://hestaawards.com.au)

**MEDIA CONTACT: Luisa Saccotelli 0400 149 901 or Aileen Muldoon 0419 112 503**

*The 2015 HESTA Aged Care Awards is an initiative of HESTA, run in partnership with the National Aged Care Alliance and proudly sponsored by **ME**.*