



## **Media Release**

**Tuesday 11 May 2010**

### **Valuable Contribution of Otago and Southland Nurses to be Celebrated on International Nurses Day**

Local nurses throughout Southland and Otago will be recognised and celebrated for their nursing innovation, clinical excellence and outstanding contributions to the community at a variety of events being held on International Nurses Day, Wednesday 12 May 2010.

International Nurses Day is celebrated on 12 May each year, which is the anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. This year's theme is "Delivering Quality, Serving Communities: Nurses leading Chronic Care".

The media are welcome to attend all of the following events.

#### **Southland Celebrations**

In Southland, the day will be marked with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Southland Nursing Excellence Awards, which will be held in the Victoria Rooms of the Civic Theatre in Invercargill at 6pm.

The awards, which are organised jointly by the Southern DHB and Southland's four Primary Health Organisations, have been held in Southland for the past three years. Eight scholarships will be awarded to nurses who work in a range of settings including hospital, primary care, aged care and the education sectors.

Southland Nursing Awards Committee member Jane Collins says 17 nurses have been nominated for an award in 2010. This year's event also features a new scholarship from the Southern Institute of Technology for excellence in mentorship, education and support to nursing students.

The evening will begin with a 'meet and greet' at 6pm, with the awards presentation scheduled for 8:15pm.

#### **Otago Celebrations**

##### **Dunedin Hospital**

At Dunedin Hospital a celebratory afternoon tea with presentations of a "special gift" and the annual scholarships, will be held in the Otago Board Room at 2pm.

Six scholarships, including an award from Rotary, will be presented to successful nurse applicants. Certificates will also be awarded for outstanding service.

Tina Gilbertson, Southern DHB Deputy Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer says a special feature of this year's celebration is an original piece of artwork created for the occasion by Adele Knowles, Nurse Director for Women's, Children's and Public Health (Otago). The artwork, entitled "Our Everyday Heroes", depicts

"Super Nurse" stylised from the cartoon character Superman. The painting will be showcased at the awards afternoon, alongside a special photo presentation of our local nurses at work.

Visitors to Dunedin Hospital are also encouraged to check out the hospital's main foyer exhibit on the ground floor which features a display focusing on this year's theme "Nursing care for chronic conditions" and the contribution nurses are making in these areas, including significant work around smoking cessation and the and management of diabetes.

### **Central Otago**

The Southern DHB's Central Otago Mental Health Nursing Team will be joining the Dunedin Hospital Ceremony by video conference from Dunstan Hospital at 2pm.

This event will also celebrate the high level of post graduate educational attainment amongst this community mental health team as it delivers a quality service to the Central Otago community.

### **Media Queries**

Contact Jo Harvey, Regional Communications Officer, Southern DHB, on 027 674 1758 or 03 2147243.