



the women's
the royal women's hospital

Media Release

7 October 2010

Sexual Assault Prevention recognition for the Women's

The Royal Women's Hospital's work to prevent sexual assault through a schools program has been recognised at the 2010 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards.

The Women's was named runner up in the Prevention and Promotion Award for its project, Young people's health and wellbeing – Sexual Assault Prevention Program in Secondary Schools (SAPPSS).

The awards were presented by the Premier and the Minister for Health at a gala ceremony last night.

SAPPSS embeds a culture of mutual respect among teens through the primary prevention of sexual assault and violence, by building skills and behaviours for respectful relationships in the formative years.

It was developed in 2004 by the Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) House, as part of the Women's. The program enables schools to embed violence prevention in the school curricula through a whole-school approach in partnerships with specialist health care providers. It also features a peer educator program for Year 11 or 12 students and ongoing evaluation.

SAPPSS is now being implemented in 20 secondary schools in Victoria, three in the Australian Capital Territory and one in the Northern Territory.

Minister Andrews said competition for the awards was keen, with a record 310 entries. "The high calibre range of entrants ensured 2010 was the toughest year yet for judges to select the finalists and is testament to the wonderful and inspiring work happening every day in our public healthcare system," he said.

The Chief Executive of the Women's, Dale Fisher, welcomed the recognition for the program.

"SAPPSS aims to build a school's capacity to deliver and support a sophisticated, yet grass roots, primary prevention strategy that targets teenagers at the formative stage of their social and emotional development when their attitudes and behaviours regarding relationships are being molded."

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