

NOTICE  
**NEW**  
The 2009 NSW Health  
**Harry Collins Award**

for Achievement in  
**Reducing  
Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs)**

Sponsored by Quality and Safety Branch, NSW Department of Health

**Background**

The new **Harry Collins Award** has been launched with the 2009 Annual NSW Health Awards to commemorate the outstanding commitment and passionate contribution of Mr Henry (Harry) Collins towards improving healthcare and patient safety within NSW.

Mr Collins had a strong social conscience and in retirement, became an advocate on many social issues. Harry had a very genuine interest in people and believed in taking responsibility, being actively involved in decision making processes and trying to make a difference.

Harry came to the attention of the NSW Office on Ageing in the late 1980s when he facilitated the Premier's Forums on Ageing, and was subsequently awarded the Commonwealth Recognition Award as Outstanding Senior Citizen in 1999. Mr Collins was the Chair of the Consumer and Community Council, and Bankstown Hospital community representative. In 2002 he was awarded the Centenary Medal and in 2003, voted the Bankstown Citizen of the Year.

In 2004 Harry received an OAM for services to the community through a range of advisory, health and social support committees in key areas such as men's health, cancer services and ageing.

It is, however, for his work in the area of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs) that this Award has been created. Harry was the first community representative on the Infection Control Advisory Committee of Sydney South West Area Health Service.



From 2002 to 2005 he was the Community Representative to the Australian Health Care Associated Infections Advisory Committee – a sub committee of the Australian Council for Safety and Quality in Healthcare.

Harry Collins made a particularly outstanding contribution to the “Clean Hands Saves Lives” Campaign prior to his death in November 2007.

His dedication to bringing the community’s perspective to the prevention of healthcare associated infections is greatly appreciated by both patients and staff of the NSW health system, and NSW Health is proud to recognise these achievements.

## **Aims**

The Harry Collins Award recognises the achievements of teams working with patients, other staff or the community towards reducing or preventing Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs). Submissions may cover one or more aspect of improving control of HAIs including, but not restricted to: clinical practice; education and training; recruitment and retention of infection control workforce; research.

## **Entry process**

2009 NSW Health Awards entries that relate to HAIs will be eligible for the Harry Collins Award **in addition** to the Awards category entered. The Awards categories most likely to be relevant are:

- Category 2A: Improving quality and safety
- Category 5: Making smart choices
- Category 6: Building the health workforce
- Category 7: Being ready for new risks and opportunities

Full details of the 2009 NSW Health Award categories are at:

[www.awards-expo.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.awards-expo.health.nsw.gov.au)

Health Services’ Awards Liaison Officers should identify on the on-line submission form the entries they wish to be considered for the Harry Collins Award (in addition to the Awards category entered).

All NSW Health Awards entries must be submitted through the relevant Health Service Awards Liaison Officer (see details on above website) in time for their Health Service’s Awards closing date.

## **Judging Panel**

- Eligible entries will be considered by the **Harry Collins Award Judging Panel**.
- Composition of the Panel will be consistent with that for all 2009 Health Awards, comprising:
  - 1 representative from the Quality and Safety Branch
  - 1 Director of Clinical Governance
  - 1 rural clinician
  - 1 independent representative (eg., university, professional college)

- 1 representative from the Harry Collins family

### **Judging Criteria**

The following criteria and weights, rather than those for the other 2009 NSW Health Award entry categories, will be used in judging the Harry Collins Award:

- Potential to impact real-life reductions in HAIs (40%)
- Potential for adoption across other services/settings (30%)
- Increase in the profile of HAI control within health professions (20%)
- Originality and leadership in the field of HAI prevention(10%)

### **Award and other recognition**

- The Winner and other Finalists will be announced at the 2009 NSW Health Awards ceremony at the Australian Technology Park (ATP), Redfern, on Friday 30 October 2009. All Finalist teams will be invited to attend.
- The Winner and other Finalists will be invited to make presentations at the 2009 NSW Health Expo, also to be held at the ATP on 30 October 2009.
- An award of up to \$5,000 will be made by Quality and Safety Branch to the Health Service Clinical Governance Unit to contribute towards the implementation or dissemination of HAI prevention innovations or strategies identified in the entry.
- Funds awarded would be issued subject to approval by Quality and Safety Branch of specific purposes proposed by the winning team in consultation with the Health Service Director of Clinical Governance.
- Funds would be administered through the relevant Health Service, which would be required to provide a statement confirming approved expenditures within the agreed timeframe.

### **Contact**

For all enquiries about the 2009 NSW Health Awards and Expo, including the Harry Collins Award, please contact:

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