

Media Release

Worthy winners in 2014 LIFE Awards



TASMANIAN
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
COMMUNITY
NETWORK

David Hayden, the Young English Migrant Program, Huon Aquaculture, and Suicide Response South were officially recognised at last night's 2014 LIFE Awards. These annual awards recognise individuals and organisations for their outstanding work in reducing the rate and impact of suicide in the Tasmanian community.

'We had a difficult time selecting the LIFE award winners this year; it was a high quality field and it demonstrates the excellent work that so many are doing out in the community' said Dr Michael Kelly, Chair of the Tasmanian Suicide Prevention Community Network.

'It is because of the work being undertaken on a local level by our entrants and winners that we are seeing more targeted and effective interventions for those who need greater support'.

David Hayden, the winner of this year's Tasplan Outstanding Contribution LIFE Award, is a great example of someone who has dedicated his life to assist others. Over the course of 21 years of volunteering at Lifeline Tasmania, David has provided around 15,000 hours of support to people at risk of suicide and facing crisis.

Likewise, the staff at TasTAFE Hobart saw a need to increase the mental health and wellbeing of young asylum seeker and refugees participating in the Young English Migrant Program. By including elements such as suicide prevention and stigma reduction workshops, the program is improving resilience amongst these young people.

This year's LIFE Award judges were so impressed by the quality of Huon Aquaculture's work in their community they created a new category for Best Practice in Business and Enterprise. Huon Aquaculture developed a program to support the mental health and wellbeing of its staff. However, after discovering that some staff had mental health, alcohol and other issues impacting their personal and work lives, it decided to actively support them. This included providing access and transport to counselling and emergency accommodation. The Huon Aquaculture program has already assisted a number of staff in the Huon area, and continues to invest in the mental health and well being of its staff and the wider community.

The final LIFE Award for Best Practice – Service Provision – was awarded to Standby Response South. Standby Response South helps individuals, families, communities, schools, organisations and businesses where there has been a suicide. The service responds to these people immediately, with its telephone service staffed 24 hours a day and face to face outreach service provided as soon as possible.

Relationships Australia Tasmania receives funding from the Crown, through the Department of Health and Human Services to provide Suicide Prevention.

The LIFE Awards celebrate the work of Tasmanian organisations, services, service providers, community and community members to reduce the rate and impact of Suicide in the state.

The 2014 winners are: for the Tasplan Outstanding Contribution LIFE Award – David Hayden; the Red Herring Surf Communities in Action LIFE Award – Young English Migrant Program; TSPCN Best Practice – Business and Enterprise LIFE Award (Business) – Huon Aquaculture; the TSPCN Best Practice – Service Provision Award – Standby Response South.