



2014 MINISTER OF HEALTH
VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Awards presentation on Monday 16 June at 2pm at the Wellington Hospital, Horne Lecture Theatre, Level 12, Ward Support Block (WSB)

Health Volunteer of the Year – Winner

Cancer Society Canterbury West Coast Division Rural Groups

This is the first time an overall award recipient has been chosen. The inaugural recipients of the Health Volunteer of the Year award are the Cancer Society of New Zealand - Canterbury West Coast Division Rural Groups. Diana Reid and Phyl (Phyllis) Heal will be at the Wellington presentation to accept the award on behalf of the more than 400 volunteers who make up the 16 Rural Groups. This team is also the winner of the Community or NGO Health Service Team Award. These volunteers stood out for the impact they have made on the lives of hundreds of New Zealanders in South Island rural communities, over many years, with several groups more than 30 years old, and spread over great distances across Canterbury and the West Coast. Whether it's providing transport to treatment appointments, home visits, baking, meals or companionship during a difficult time, their support is greatly valued by cancer patients and their families. The groups' fundraising and awareness programmes also help the Cancer Society to deliver on its mission of reducing the incidence and impact of cancer in our community, a disease that affects one in three New Zealanders.

Health Care Provider Service (Team) – Winner

Street Hospital, Wellington Free Ambulance

Since 2011, Wellington Free Ambulance volunteers have been helping keep the streets of Wellington safe on Friday and Saturday nights. Teams of up to eight volunteers set up mobile units to deal with intoxicated people, treat cuts and bruises and many more health and accident issues. This helps lighten the load on frontline ambulances, keeping them free to attend to other emergencies, and reduces the number of visits to Wellington Hospital's emergency department.

Health Care Provider Service (Team) – Runner-up

Taranaki DHB Meet and Greet Volunteers (Blue Coats)

The Meet and Greet Volunteers (Blue Coats) are at Taranaki Base Hospital and dedicate their time to lending a friendly face and being the first point of contact for patients and visitors. They help outpatients run more effectively by making sure visitors and patients to the hospital are in the right place and on time for their appointments, as well as setting up health awareness stalls.

Health Care Provider Service (Individual) – Winner

Joan McCardle

In February 2011, Joan helped to establish Friends of the Emergency Department (FED) at Taranaki District Health Board. This team supports patients and families when they come into the emergency department, helping to free up staff at the hospital for other important tasks. Joan's support has made a huge difference. She works tirelessly to ensure that the department has a FED on every shift, fundraises

for toys for the hospital's youngest patients, creates rosters and recruits and trains new FEDs.

Health Care Provider Service (Individual) – Runner-up

Dave Reynolds

Dave has been a volunteer with Wellington Free Ambulance for over 10 years. Now retired, he still volunteers his time regularly, including on frontline ambulance shifts, and continues to develop his paramedic skills. Dave's continued dedication and ongoing commitment to the Wellington Free Ambulance has benefited many people – from the knowledge he has shared with new staff, to his consistent level of patient care and empathy he offers when dealing with the public. He receives many letters from the public thanking him for his help.

Youth Health Volunteer – Winner

StarJam

StarJam empowers young people with disabilities by providing them with opportunities to participate in performance workshops – in Wellington they offer singing, dancing, drumming or guitar. These workshops are attended by 10 young people or 'Jammers' aged from 6 to 25 years, who have disabilities. The volunteers support these young people, encourage them to have a go and celebrate their successes. They also help run monthly get-togethers, activities and social events, making a big difference to the lives of people with disabilities.

Youth Health Volunteer – Runner-up

Hutt International Boys' School

Hutt International Boys' School has supported the work of Cancer Society New Zealand for the past 12 years by participating in the society's annual fundraising event, Relay for Life. This year alone, the students raised over \$79,000. In addition to the fundraising run, students have volunteered their time to help with the many logistical tasks associated with an event of this size.

Community or NGO Health Service (Team) – Runner-up

Wellington Riding for the Disabled Association, Senior VOLLIES

There is a highly committed team of volunteers at Wellington Riding for the Disabled Association ranging in age from 16 to 75. The group provides horse riding therapy to people with disabilities. To be a volunteer, members first need to learn how to handle and care for a horse, and then they learn about the medical conditions of the riders and how best to support the coaches to provide a safe, quality riding experience. Their dedication makes a difference in the lives of many people with disabilities.

Community or NGO Health Service (Individual) – Runner-up

Bev Winiata - Arohanui Hospice

Bev started volunteering for Arohanui Hospice back in 2006 in the hospice's inpatient laundry. She later moved on to helping in the hospice's Levin shop and assisting terminally ill patients with arts and crafts activities. A quiet achiever who doesn't like a fuss, Bev once volunteered 476 hours in just three months, making her Arohanui Hospice's most dedicated volunteer.

A complete list of recipients will be available at www.volunteerawards.health.govt.nz after the awards are announced.