



MEDIA RELEASE

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Employment achievers acknowledged in National Awards

Every year, the National Employment Services Association (NESa) brings employment services providers, employers and allied services together to honour and acknowledge exceptional achievements in the realm of employment. This year's Gala Awards ceremony, part of the **2021 NESa National Conference** at QT Canberra from the 7th to the 9th of June, went ahead despite COVID restrictions and a snap lockdown in Victoria, which prevented many – including most of the admin team – from attending.

Despite this, the hybrid event was once again a powerful acknowledgement of the capacity of individuals and organisations to turn lives around. In addition to the four Award categories, this year a NESa Life Fellow award was bestowed on Mr John Perry (OAM), in recognition of exceptional service to the employment services sector.

"The Award nominations continually inspire me," said NESa CEO Sally Sinclair. "We congratulate not only the winners, but all nominees, and we know that those nominated represent just a fraction of those whose work and effort improves the lives of job seekers across the country on a daily basis. We salute you all – the Awards honour all of your efforts."

This year's NESa Awards for Excellence winners are:

INNOVATION IN DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT

GradWISE Team, (nominated by WISE Employment Ltd)

WISE Employment's GradWISE team delivers the innovative GradWISE program providing exemplary specialist on-campus and remote support to tertiary students and graduates with disability to gain meaningful and commensurate employment.

Award supported by **JobAccess**

ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR

Ms Jascinta Jones (nominated by atWork Australia)

Ms Jones is an Indigenous woman who has shown admirable resilience and determination in overcoming several personal setbacks to move strongly toward her own employment goals. Her achievements serve as an inspiration to others.

Award supported by the **National Employment Services Association**

CHAMPION EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Angie's Domestic Duties (nominated by HELP Employment & Training)

Angie's Domestic Duties is a professional cleaning business that has been built from a single person enterprise by owner-manager Angela Brown, armed with just a mop, a bucket and determination. Angela now employs 40 staff, including 15 permanent part-time and 25 casual staff. At the heart of Angela's business is the philosophy that everyone who wants to work deserves the opportunity to do so, and that with the right support and guidance, and despite the personal challenges they face, job seekers from a wide range of backgrounds can be empowered to become successful and valued employees."

Award supported by **JobsBank**

EMPLOYMENT CONSULTANT OF THE YEAR

Mrs Emily Markham, (nominated by MatchWorks)

Mrs Markham has shown how to take advantage of everything life throws at you, and turn it to good. What for some may have been setbacks, Ms Markham has turned into compassion, empathy and achievement, consistently outperforming work targets as she focusses on improving the lives of those she works with.

"I feel proud working with people and helping them find employment. My life experiences empower me to do my job better, I can express more empathy to clients and make a positive difference in their lives."

Award supported by the **National Employment Services Association**

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