

Elizabeth Crock

When the other two recipients of these Awards heard that Elizabeth Crock was also getting an Award, they wrote that she is a very worthy recipient and that they are 'absolutely delighted to be in her esteemed company'.

The Royal District Nursing Service (RDNS) in Melbourne, where Liz works as Clinical Nurse Consultant in HIV, is Australia's largest home nursing organization and Liz has had a significant hand in developing and evaluating its HIV Programme. When HIV was first recognized as a disease, nursing services for people living with HIV, especially in the community, were quickly needed. In recent years, Liz has developed and promoted a model of care that could be adapted and applied internationally. In particular, she pioneered the role of the 'HIV Resource Nurse', still a unique position in Australia. In 2007 Liz again expanded the field, instigating a project that introduced a Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol nursing role into the HIV team.

In advocating for people living with HIV, she ensured that RDNS developed a formal Partnership Agreement with the non-governmental Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (VAC/GMHC) and RDNS. For the RDNS HIV Program to be sustainable, Liz perceived that the team required additional specialist roles at key RDNS Centres and formalized its close collaboration with the volunteer-based services provided by the VAC/GMHC, to complement the nursing roles with social and practical supports. This needed strong leadership, advocacy and perseverance in the face of competing priorities over several years, with client clinical needs being paramount. Within this framework, Liz sought to promote and progress a human rights agendas on an individual, community and population level, translating ethics into community nursing practice. The outcomes are more integrated care, better continuity of care, a greater focus on health promotion, improved quality of care, improved public health, and safety for the community. The integrated model of care provided by RDNS and VAC enables quick response to clients' changing needs, maximizing client well-being and safety. RDNS clients also benefit from immediate access to a range of practical supports and social activities provided through VAC, which reduces social isolation and mental ill-health. Liz's proactive engagement with the HIV community meant that she has also been asked to contribute to various reviews of HIV services, and her input has contributed to the Department of Health's decision to fund several new HIV nursing positions, including other HIV Clinical Nurse Consultant positions with hospitals across Melbourne and within RDNS. In short, Liz's work has brought under-recognized benefits to the community, specifically of the HIV Resource Nurse role at RDNS and the Partnership Agreement with VAC/GMHC and RDNS.

When Liz heard about the Human Rights and Nursing Awards for the first time, she nominated her colleagues Beth and Tom. Her own nominators believe that this is a 'measure of the person'. She constantly understates the value of her own tireless work (for which she has received very little formal recognition), and always goes the extra mile in whatever form is necessary for the good of any clients and their families. A great deal of advocacy she does is in her own time, constantly battling bureaucracy to ensure continuous care for the stigmatised group of clients

with HIV. On top of that, Liz has also worked with asylum seekers after hours, teaching them English. She is most certainly a worthy recipient of this Award.