

Media Release

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***Innovation and Exceptional Care Feature at the
2013 JDRF Diabetes Educator Awards***

JDRF, the leading global organisation funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research, is delighted to announce the winners of the 2013 JDRF Diabetes Educator Awards. The Awards, sponsored by global diversified healthcare company Abbott, recognise Diabetes Educators for their exceptional contribution and dedication to the lives of people with T1D and their families. More than just devoted providers of diabetes care and education, they are also trusted emotional supporters who provide a shoulder to lean on and help families get through some of the most difficult times of life with T1D.

This year a record number of nominations were received, totaling over 170 nominations nationally across the three award categories: Excellence and Innovation, Impact and Relationships and People's Choice. This is a 45 per cent increase from last year's Awards, demonstrating the growing recognition and central role that Diabetes Educators play in the lives of people with T1D and their families. Nominations were open to all Australian Credential Diabetes Educators, Clinical Nurse Consultants and Clinical Nurse Educators that work with patients who have T1D. Each Award is accompanied by a \$3,000 cash prize for the recipient's clinic.

The winner of the **Excellence and Innovation Award** is Gael Holters of the Bankstown-Lidcombe Diabetes Clinic. Gael has been recognised for her introduction of a T1D service for young adults. Gael and her team have tailored a T1D assessment and management clinic for young adults aged between 15-30 years of age, an age group that typically experiences difficulty transitioning from paediatric to adult diabetes care. Through her hard work, Gael has improved youth attendance and patient satisfaction in a culturally diverse population. The Bankstown-Lidcombe Diabetes Clinic plan to spend the Award prize money on IT equipment for use at educational days.

Dianne Roberts of ACT Health's Paediatric and Adolescent Diabetes Service has won the **Impact and Relationships Award** for her sensitive counseling when helping children, adolescents and young adults as well as their families, adjust to life with T1D. Her skills open up a trusting and caring relationship that forms the basis for the effective delivery of T1D education. The prize money will be used by the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children's Paediatric Unit to purchase innovative new education technologies that are targeted at young people as well as the development of research projects into diabetes education.

Michelle Kuerschner of the Port Augusta Hospital has been awarded the **People's Choice Award** for providing support above and beyond standard health care to her patients. She has tirelessly provided education, emotional support and dedication to her patients and their families. Michelle has played a significant role in the lives of many families from assisting with the planning of a child's day to day life to talking to sports coaches about how to care for someone with T1D. Her support has been inexhaustible for a great many families.

JDRF Australia CEO Mike Wilson said: "T1D is a serious and difficult disease, but with the high level of educational and emotional support provided by diabetes educators such as the Diabetes Educator Award winners, people with T1D can lead full and active lives without letting the disease stand in their way. The 45 per cent increase in nominations for this year's Awards is a testament to the crucial role that Diabetes Educators play in the lives of people with T1D and their families. JDRF congratulates the winners and thanks them for their passionate commitment to delivering high quality T1D education and care."

The Awards are proudly supported by Abbott's diabetes care business unit, a leader in developing, manufacturing and marketing glucose monitoring systems designed to help people better manage their diabetes. Abbott has sponsored the Awards for the last four years and has a strong commitment to high quality diabetes education.

Speaking about the Awards, Peter Chalikias, Regional Director ANZ, Abbott Diabetes Care, said: "Diabetes Educators have an integral role to help people with diabetes manage their condition to achieve their best health outcomes. Abbott shares this commitment, and is proud to support the 2013 JDRF Diabetes Educator Awards."

Further information, interviews or images, please call Catherine Strong 02 9020 6114.

About JDRF

JDRF is the leading global organisation funding type 1 diabetes (T1D) research. JDRF's goal is to progressively remove the impact of T1D from people's lives until we achieve a world without T1D. JDRF collaborates with a wide spectrum of partners and is the only organisation with the scientific resources, regulatory influence, and a working plan to better treat, prevent, and eventually cure T1D. As the largest charitable supporter of T1D research, JDRF is currently sponsoring USD\$568 million in scientific research in 17 countries, with over USD\$27 million currently devoted to research programs in Australia. For more information, please visit www.jdrf.org.au.

About Abbott

Abbott (NYSE: ABT) is a global healthcare company devoted to improving life through the development of products and technologies that span the breadth of healthcare. With a portfolio of leading, science-based offerings in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic pharmaceuticals, Abbott serves people in more than 150 countries and employs approximately 70,000 people.

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