

SANE wins award for innovative research work

SANE Australia's pioneering Research Bulletin series was awarded the Special Judges Award at the 2009 Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Achievement Awards.

The Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Achievement Awards recognise and encourage best practice mental health service provision. The Special Judges Award was awarded to SANE's Research Bulletin series in recognition of 'innovative, accessible reports which document mental health issues and the views of people with a mental illness and carers.'

The SANE Research Bulletin series commenced in 2005 and provides 'real world' evidence and commentary on mental health issues, by asking people affected by mental illness to share their views on topics that affect their lives. Research Bulletin topics so far include money, housing, employment, stigma, intimacy and social isolation, and each bulletin has clear recommendations for action from government, health services and the community.

SANE's Executive Director Barbara Hocking says of the award, 'It's a great honour to receive this Special Judges Award - we're delighted to be recognised in this way. Of course we couldn't have conducted this research without the huge number of people affected by mental illness who have contributed by sharing their views - people who deserve to be consulted about services for them.'

The Australian and New Zealand Mental Health Achievement Awards were presented by Senator Claire Moore, Senator for Queensland and Chair of the Senate for Community Affairs Committee at the 19th Annual TheMHS Conference (The Mental Health Services Conference of Australia and New Zealand). Panels drawn from different disciplines including consumer and carer organisations judge the awards.

SANE's Research Bulletins, which are supported by the R.E. Ross Trust, can be downloaded from the Research area of the SANE website: www.sane.org

About SANE

SANE Australia conducts programs, educational campaigns and research to improve the lives of people living with mental illness, their family and friends. SANE also operates a Helpline and website, which provides support to tens of thousands of people and their families every year.

For over 20 years SANE Australia has continued to expand, undertaking independent research studies, developing resources, implementing campaigns and projects and increasing the scope of work to support all those impacted by mental illness.

SANE Australia is an independent national organisation, receiving no ongoing government funding. Registered as a charity, SANE relies exclusively on donations and grants to carry out its work.

Ends.

SANE media contact

Briony Walker
03 9682 5933
0414 427 291
briony.walker@sane.org
www.sane.org

SANE Australia

A national charity working for a better life for people affected by mental illness through education, research, and campaigning for improved services and attitudes.

SANE operates Australia's only national Freecall Helpline providing information and advice about symptoms, treatment and support services for mental illness:
1800 18 SANE (7263).