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Sydney Local Health District nurses earn top honours

Two Sydney Local Health District nurses have taken out top awards at the fifth annual NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Awards.

Claudia Pollauszach and Amal Helou were among 12 outstanding nurses and midwives who received awards from the Minister for Health Brad Hazzard at a ceremony at Parliament House last night.

A record 301 nominees this year were put forward for their significant contribution to improving patient care, says the NSW Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Jacqui Cross.



Claudia Pollauszach (blue shirt) accepting her award.

"The number of nominations we receive has grown each year - a testament to the high regard in which nurses and midwives are held."

Clinical Nurse Consultant Claudia took out the honours in the Excellence in Nursing category for her clinical leadership in ensuring Sydney Local Health District's Hospital in The Home model of care is provided safely, and for her work in enhancing the knowledge and skills of other nurses.

Amal Helou was awarded the Judith Meppem Lifetime Achievement Award for a career dedicated to pain management. Amal was the first nurse practitioner in pain management in Australia.

She has been working at RPA since 1980 and continues to educate staff and patients through lectures, teaching and mentoring.

"I knew and personally worked with Judith Meppem when she was chief nurse on developing the nurse practitioner role for pain management when it was being rolled out, so it is an honour to receive this award," she said.

Clinical midwifery research consultant Hala Phipps was a finalist in the research and innovation category. She completed her PhD in 2014 and takes every opportunity to motivate and support midwives to undertake and understand research.