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## Townsville nurse awarded for championing stroke care

The Townsville Hospital's Merv McAllister has received a **Stroke Care Champion Award** from the National Stroke Foundation and Stroke Society of Australasia in recognition of his tireless commitment to reducing the impact of stroke.

"World Stroke Day is 29 October and has the theme 'Stroke: what can I do?' to encourage individuals, groups and governments to take action against stroke," said Dr Erin Lalor, CEO of the National Stroke Foundation.

"It is a perfect time to acknowledge those members of our community already working hard to reduce the impact of stroke, who often don't get the recognition they deserve."

With a nursing career that spans over 30 years, Merv is in his fifth year as the Clinical Nurse Consultant for The Townsville Hospital Acute Stroke Unit.

His dedication to ensuring stroke patients and their families receive the best possible care goes above and beyond the call of duty, according to co workers who made the nomination.

"Merv helps stroke patients, their families and his co workers navigate the journey of recovery from stroke, beginning with admission into emergency and continuing beyond discharge," said social worker Janet Macarthur who also works in The Townsville Hospital's Acute Stroke Unit.

The Stroke Care Champion Award recognises Merv's dedication to educating stroke, nursing and medical teams as well as the patients and their families, and creating strong links between regional and rural stroke services.

Merv advocates for ongoing support for stroke patients and their families, and participates in goal setting and discharge planning. He also ensures stroke affected families from culturally and linguistically diverse programs have information they can understand to feel informed and empowered.

Now in its second year, the Stroke Care Champion Awards acknowledge people working in the field of stroke who are dedicated to improving the care and quality of life for patients.

More information at [www.strokefoundation.com.au](http://www.strokefoundation.com.au)

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