Invitations are now open for staff to contribute to the Annual Healing Narrative Award, sponsored by the Lions Club of Kogarah. Two awards are made annually to current part-time or full-time clinical staff (medical, non-medical) employed within the New South Wales public health system, and their relevant community services. This is the 7th year that the award has been made, and total award money this year will be $2,000. Award applications will close on Saturday the 3rd of September 2016; essays will be assessed by a panel of clinicians nominated by the Whole Person Care Group as well as an academic in the field of English Literature.

The objective of the award is to honour the stories of sick persons, and the way in which clinical staff can use themselves as therapeutic instruments, not only in providing clinical care, but in “caring” for the whole person. Many of the most moving stories in the past have described how “ordinary” encounters between clinical staff and patients have turned into “extraordinary” and memorable experiences of transformative learning.

Essays should be no more than 2,500 words and should include a significant amount of personal reflection on the events of the story, the person being discussed, and the author’s own feelings about the effects of their encounter with the person.

Entries should de-identify the names of patients and their families. Entries do not need to have the written permission of the patient(s) or their family. The intention in the future is to ask selected authors for permission to have their de-identified essays published. Please note that publication can only occur if the entry is accompanied by the written permission of the patient(s) or their family.

As a condition of entry, each winner will be expected to have his/her essay read aloud at an appropriate November meeting of the Lions Club of Kogarah in 2016.

Name: The Lions Club of Kogarah Healing Narrative Award
Amount: $1,000.00 annually to a medical healthcare professional.
         $1,000.00 annually to a non-medical healthcare professional.
Eligibility: The award is open to all medical and non-medical clinicians employed in the public healthcare system within New South Wales.
Task: to write a reflective essay about a patient (or patients) which highlights the therapeutic benefit of presence, and listening to a patient’s story or narrative.
Format: an essay of no more than 2,500 words.
Date: the essay is to be submitted by Saturday the 3rd of September 2016.
Assessment: Essays will be assessed by a panel of clinicians and non-clinicians, chaired by Dr. Frank Brennan.

Presentation: The successful applicants will receive their award at the Medical Staff Association dinner in October. In addition the winning essay will be read aloud at a Lions Club dinner meeting in November together with the presentation of an appropriate certificate.

Further Details: To submit an essay, or for further information, please email Dr Frank Brennan (fpbrennan@ozemail.com.au) who will de-identify the essayist prior to sending the essays for consideration. Authors should be also mindful of the need to de-identify any patient characteristics.

Applications close 3 SEPTEMBER 2016