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MEDIA RELEASE

It is with great pride that **Regal Health Services** announces that CEO **Anna Shepherd** has been included in this year's finalists for **Telstra Business Woman of the Year Awards**.

Given the extraordinary calibre of the 14 finalists we are thrilled that Anna has been selected for such a prestigious award. We also feel privileged that her many efforts in support of community nursing is being recognised.

Anna has been selected alongside two other women for the prestigious **Commonwealth Bank Business Owner Award.** We trust you will join us in wishing her the very best of luck.

For those who do not know Anna, you will be pleased to learn that she once won a hypothetical debate on the premise that she could run NSW Health. While she is yet to have that opportunity, she has helped shape and enhance community nursing through 28 years of advocating for the profession.

Her vision is for quality, respectful and dignified care for those requiring healthcare at home including veterans and the community at large. Anna has collaborated with the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards to establish accreditation for community nursing in the private sector. In 1994, Regal became the first private Community Nursing service to be accredited in Australia and has been endorsed for excellence ever since.

The only Australian woman to graduate from Harvard Business School's Owner/President Management Program in 2010, Anna continues to advance community nursing through innovative leadership in education, clinical practice, research and professional involvement. In 2008, she instigated a clinical study to improve wound care and in recent years, Anna implemented the Regal Health Services Clinical Excellence Program in association with the University of Sydney.

At Harvard, Anna was inspired to promote the notion of passing on the wisdom and corporate talent of the entrepreneurs with whom she studied. Elected as a co-chair of the Harvard Social Responsibility Program, Anna is constantly and actively initiating programs that provide long term solutions to those in need. Anna is excited about her forthcoming Field Trip in India with her Harvard colleagues to promote corporate social responsibility.

Andrew Bogg, Telstra Area General Manager for Sydney Metro North, said "Telstra has run the Business Women's Awards program for 17 years to celebrate the leadership, innovation and hard work of extraordinary women."

Winners of the 2011 Telstra NSW Business Women's Awards will be announced at a gala luncheon on 30 September in Sydney.

The NSW winners proceed to the national finals of the Telstra Business Women's Awards, which will be announced in Melbourne on 18 November.

For further information or to arrange an interview with Anna, please contact **Clare Tamas**, **Executive Assistant on (02) 9264 4555 or** <u>ctamas@regalhealth.com.au</u>