

Media Release



7 March 2019

Shirley Smith wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Shirley Smith, who founded a team of volunteer drivers to assist the sick and elderly to attend medical appointments, was presented with the First State Super Lifetime Achievement Award by the NSW Governor, His Excellency David Hurley, at the NSW Women of the Year Award this morning.

As a trained nurse, Shirley too often saw the challenges the sick and elderly in Casino experienced just to make it to a medical appointment and was determined to do something about it.

At first she started driving people to their appointments but soon had to enlist the help of others to meet the need.

From these small beginnings in 1999, the service now transports people as far north as Brisbane and as far south as Grafton. Over the past twenty years Shirley and her team of volunteers has assisted over 2,600 people and have made more than 85,700 trips to help patients attend life-saving dialysis, cancer treatment and other crucial outpatient services.

First State Super CEO, Deanne Stewart, paid tribute to Shirley Smith and said: “I am delighted that Shirley’s achievement has been recognised with this prestigious award. Over the past twenty years Shirley has built a volunteer network that has helped thousands across the community.

“As we celebrate International Women’s Day, Shirley’s story is a timely reminder that our voice and actions, do make a difference”.

Shirley Smith expressed surprise at being the winner and thanked the community for supporting her and the team by their involvement, donations and assistance.

Shirley said: “ I’m so pleased that the community and us, as a team, manage to provide for the need that was missing”. Shirley said the need for the service had not diminished and looked forward to welcoming more volunteers and donors.

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Note to Editors:

First State Super is one of Australia’s largest profit-for-member financial services organisations. We provide our members with a better financial future through safe and secure superannuation and quality financial advice. Our size enables us to invest in ways that make a positive impact on the economy, the environment and the communities in which our members live, work and retire. Most of our members work in vocational roles that care for our communities. They are nurses, midwives, teachers, police, firefighters, paramedics and others who dedicate their careers to helping others.

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Key Facts:

- Two-thirds of First State Super members are women i.e. more than 500,000,
- We manage approximately \$93bn in retirement saving for our 760,000 members and clients.

- We believe that everyone deserves a dignified retirement. Through our financial planning company, StatePlus we provide high quality, affordable advice for members and all Australians. While we're big, we see our members as individuals. We understand the role we play in safeguarding their savings and working with them to plan for the future they want.
- Through our financial planning company StatePlus our members and clients have access to over 220 financial planners across a broad network of regional offices.