**Media Release**:

# *Being* WINS TOP AUSTRALASIAN AWARD

***Being*** won a ***TheMHS Award*** in the 2017 Mental Health Service Awards of Australia and New Zealand program for service to mental health for their video series “*Into the Light: An Arabic Resource on Psychological Health”.*

***Being*** won their Award in the Promotions and Illness Prevention category. It was given in recognition of the achievement of excellence, innovation and best practice in mental health services. It was one of 6 Awards made in the Service and Program categories, 3 for Exceptional Contribution, 3 for research and 4 for Media.

The Award was announced **30th August** at the Annual TheMHS Conference held this year in Sydney, Australia. It was presented to former Being staff members Ka Ki and Adla by the The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Federal Minister for Health.

According to the 2011 census, Arabic is the most popular language other than English to be spoken at home in NSW (2.7% of NSW population), and it also grew the second fastest when compared with the 2006 census (grew from 2.5% to 2.7% in NSW). The Program ‘Into the Light’ is a three-part video resource in Arabic. It aims to engage the Arabic-speaking communities in NSW on psychological health, distress and seeking help. To achieve this, Being took steps to ensure the project was informed by the Arabic-speaking communities and those who work closely with them.

The Mental Health Service Awards of Australia and New Zealand are presented every year by TheMHS Learning Network to recognise and encourage best practice, excellence and innovation in mental health service delivery. The Awards have been made annually since 1992.

TheMHS Conference is the largest mental health and addiction services conference in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. TheMHS aims to promote positive attitudes about mental health and mental illness, and to stimulate debate that challenges the boundaries of knowledge and ideas about mental health care.

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