



BedfordTM

Media Release

29 November, 2011

40 years of service earns Helen Smith Bedford's highest award

Unley Park resident Helen Smith has been a shining example of self-empowerment as a dedicated employee of Bedford for more than 40 years, and this week she will be recognised formally for her achievements at a very special occasion.

Helen has been selected from thousands of Bedford employees across Adelaide as the recipient of the organisation's prestigious Heart & Soul Award, which will be presented to her on Friday (December 2) at Bedford's 44th Annual Achievement Awards, to be held at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

Bedford's Annual Achievements Awards celebrates people with disability or disadvantage overcoming diverse challenges to realise their potential and make a positive contribution to the community. The Heart and Soul Award is the organisation's highest honour, given to an individual who demonstrates strong values in teamwork, building relationships, taking responsibility, achievement, pursuing Bedford pathways for training and employment opportunities.

Helen began working at Bedford in 1970 as a member of the finance and administration department. In her 41 years, she has become known for her friendly demeanor and determination.

Despite mobility issues, Helen continues to live on her own, drive to work daily and remains a productive member of Bedford's finance and administration team.

Bedford's newly appointed Chief Executive Sally Powell said Helen's contribution was a great example of the mutual benefit provided through working with Bedford.

"Bedford changes lives and Helen is the perfect example of someone contributing positively to our organisation while using the services we provide as a platform for self-empowerment," she said.

"Helen has been an asset to Bedford since before I was born! That in itself is remarkable. We hope she's as proud of herself as we are of her."

It won't be Helen's first award during her time at Bedford. In 2009, Helen received an Opportunity Award from the Rotary Club of Mitcham for her reliability and service to Bedford and the community.

Ms Powell said the Annual Achievement Awards were a unique tradition and an important day in the lives of people who have overcome significant hurdles.

"Without doubt the Achievement Awards Day is the highlight of our year," she said.

"It's a chance to formally recognise the outstanding achievements of many members of the Bedford community. It is a Bedford tradition that incites pride and provides members with the opportunity to be recognised in front of their family and peers."

Around 800 people are expected to attend Friday's ceremony. Next week Bedford will also hold Achievement Award ceremonies at its regional sites in Millicent, Port Lincoln and Wallaroo.



BedfordTM

Media Release

Photo opportunity

What: Unley Park resident Helen Smith receives Bedford's most prestigious award, recognising 41 years of dedicated service to the organisation

When: Friday, December 2nd, from 11am

Where: Adelaide Entertainment Centre

Bedford background: Visit www.bedfordgroup.com.au/news_and_info

Media Information: Anna Kenneally, Michels Warren: (08) 8267 6888 or 0433 271 700

Interviews: Sally Powell, Chief Executive – Bedford: 0421 856 249

Bedford Media Contact: Sabine Kloss, Marketing Manager, Marketing & Fundraising: (08) 8275 0222 or 0403 465 950