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## MEDIA RELEASE

### **QUEENSLAND RETIREMENT VILLAGE MANAGER WINS NATIONAL RECOGNITION**

A Townsville retirement village manager has been honoured as the national winner of the Programmed Award for Village Manager of the Year at the National Retirement Living Awards 2018, presented at a gala ceremony at Parliament House in Canberra.

Sue Stevens has been the senior village manager at Carlyle Gardens in Condon, operated by Blue Care, since August 2017. The village consists of 458 independent living units and is home to more than 660 residents.

The award is recognition of her role as an outstanding village manager who has enhanced the lives of residents through various initiatives that she has implemented at the village, and through strong community engagement.

Initiatives she has been responsible for include the establishment of women's and men's health and well-being expos for village residents and the wider Townsville community; information briefings for residents on different subjects relevant to them; as well as demonstrating significant project management skills including the refurbishment and relaunch of the village restaurant and resurfacing of the village bowling green.

Sue also plays an important role for the Townsville community as the deputy chair of the Townsville City Council Disaster Management Team – Seniors' Portfolio, through which she provides advice and support to the Townsville Mayor and council on seniors' issues, including on disaster preparedness and management.

The Programmed Award for Village Manager of the Year is part of the National Retirement Living Awards, which recognises the contribution and achievements across all areas of the retirement living sector by the people and companies helping ensure senior Australians have an enjoyable retirement.

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-2-

There are currently more than 180,000 people living in more than 2,300 retirement villages across Australia. With 22 per cent of Australians expected to be over the age of 65 by 2054, the need for comfortable, affordable and supportive retirement living options is ever-increasing.

More information is available at [www.retirementlivingawards.com.au](http://www.retirementlivingawards.com.au)

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