

# Annabel brings a message of caring to Oz Day celebrations



Michelle Gately | 24th Jan 2015 6:00 AM



HONOURED GUEST: Annabel Pike, winner of the 2013 Pride of Australia Medal – Care and Compassion, will visit Rockhampton as an Australia Day Ambassador.

Photo Michelle Bowden

ANNABEL Pike didn't go into nursing for the glory.

But her compassion and outstanding patient care have brought the 22-year-old Brisbane woman recognition with a Pride of Australia Medal in 2013.

On Monday, Annabel will visit Rockhampton as an Australia Day Ambassador.

Annabel said the invitation to be an ambassador came as a shock when she returned from volunteering in Cambodia.

It's an honour she gladly accepted.

"There are so many notable people (being ambassadors), it's a bit overwhelming," Annabel said.

"I feel privileged to be included."

For Annabel, the national celebration is all about "acceptance and diversity".

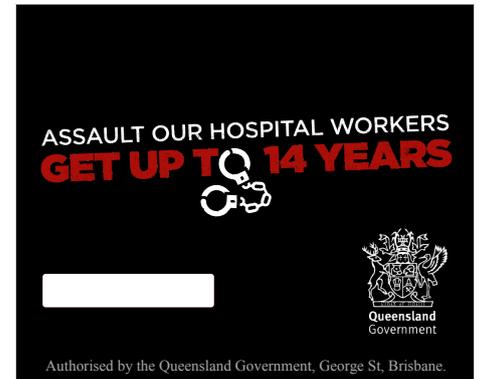
"It's a day we can recommit to making Australia a better place as a community and as a whole," she said.

Annabel said the nation's urban areas could learn a lot from regional communities, like those in Central Queensland.

In her role as a Registered Nurse, Annabel believes even the smallest gesture can make a big difference to patients and their families.

She was inspired to enter the profession after seeing the care her grandparents received before they died.

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While at times her role could be daunting, Annabel said nurses were crucial in supporting people through some of the most difficult times in their lives.

"It's not the front line ... but in my patients and their family's lives they are looking for reassurance," Annabel said.

"For a moment in time, they can forget they're sick."

#### **Celebrate Australia**

Annabel will deliver the keynote address at The Heritage Village on Australia Day

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