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What I'm hearing



By Business Editor GREG ELLIS

Warrigal Care wins gold

WARRIGAL Care has won a gold medal in the 2009 Australasian Reporting Awards in a year highlighted by higher standards of reporting and a record number of awards - despite 10 per cent fewer entries because of the economic downturn.

The awards were presented in Melbourne last Thursday before senior executives from major Australian and New Zealand corporate, government and not-for-profit organisations. Awards committee chairman Arthur Delbridge said the quality of the annual reports was significantly higher than in previous years.

For Warrigal Care to win a gold award its report had to be scored highly by more than 10 reviewers over different stages of the adjudication process.

During the rigorous judging process, Mr Delbridge said 48 organisations were found deserving of a gold award compared to 38 in 2008.

There were 90 silver awards.

Mr Delbridge described the awards as a benchmarking activity, not a competition.

The award criteria were based on world best practice in annual reporting and updated regularly, he said, to respond to changing stakeholder expectations and statutory requirements.