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Nursing award winner has found her calling

The Bankstown-Lidcombe Hospital winner of a prestigious 2021 NSW Health Excellence in Nursing and Midwifery Award describes her nursing career as a “passion” and a “calling”.

Sonia Kokuru, 28, who immigrated to Australia from Ghuana in West Africa in 2002 with her family, was announced as the winner of the New to Practice Award category last week.

“I feel so honoured to receive the award for doing the job I love,” Ms Kokuru said.

“Nursing is truly rewarding and I know I have found my calling. I love working in my own community – it is a great privilege. I went to school here and I am so fortunate that I have the opportunity to work in my local hospital.”

The University of Technology graduate completed a medical science degree and was thinking about becoming a pharmacist when she decided she was far more interested in nursing.

“I went back to university and studied nursing. It is a decision I am so pleased I made,” Ms Kokuru said.

“I enjoyed my clinical rotations particularly in the surgical ward, where I am now working.

“Eventually I would like to become a nursing educator. There have been so many great people doing so many great things who have helped me in my career.”

South Western Sydney Local Health District Nursing and Midwifery Director Sonia Marshall congratulated Ms Kokuru on her award win.

“Sonia demonstrates excellence in her nursing practice and displays a wonderful caring manner for the patients in her care,” Ms Marshall said.

“She is a wonderful role model to her peers and community and I congratulate her on this outstanding achievement.”

The hospital’s Ward 2D which specialises in the care of older patients with challenging behaviours was a finalist in the Team of the Year Award.