



Clare Martin
CHIEF MINISTER



13 September 2006

NEW AWARDS RECOGNISE EXCELLENCE IN NT PUBLIC SECTOR

Chief Minister Clare Martin hosted the inaugural Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management at a special function held in Alice Springs last night.

Ms Martin said the awards were designed to recognise, honour and celebrate excellence in public sector administration and delivery of services to the community.

"These awards are long overdue – our Public Sector delivers vital services throughout the NT, including some of the most remote communities in Australia," Ms Martin said.

"We are the Territory's largest employer, and these awards are a way of recognising and rewarding hard work, commitment, innovation and outstanding performance."

Awards and commendations were given for Cross-Government Collaboration; Engagement with the Community; Regional and Remote Development; and Indigenous Community Development.

"Given the strongly collaborative nature of the nominated initiatives, the awards are presented to work groups and teams rather than individuals," Ms Martin said.

"There are some wonderful projects among them; like the unique and very successful partnership between Indigenous Rangers of the Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation and the Parks and Wildlife Service.

"Their 'both ways' project took out the Indigenous Community Development category for the innovative way staff from the two organisations share and practice both traditional and contemporary land management methods."

"The message coming from these award-winning initiatives is clear – in the Territory's public sector, you can make a difference."

The awards will be held every two years.

Media Contact: Richard O'Leary 040111 9586 - See below for a full list of category winners.

Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management – Winners and Highly Commended Nominations

Engagement with the Community Category

Winner: *Libraries and Knowledge Centres Program*. Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport: Northern Territory Library.

The Libraries and Knowledge Centres Program provides library services in remote communities. The program was developed in response to requests from Indigenous communities, who wanted and provide appropriate access to their cultural heritage. (Also highly commended in the Indigenous Community Development Category)

Highly Commended: *Jidan Gudbelawei (Kriol) – Peace at Home*. Police, Fire and Emergency Services: Katherine Integrated Family Violence Service

NT Police in conjunction with Family and Children's Services (FACS) developed the Katherine Integrated Family Violence Service as part of the '*Jidan Gudbelawei*' (Kriol) or *Peace at Home* Project. The Service manages families who present with both domestic violence and child abuse issues delivering best practice services for family violence victims and their families. (Also highly commended in the cross government collaboration category).

Cross Government Collaboration Category

Winner: *Court Referral and Evaluation for Drug Intervention Treatment (CREDIT NT)*. Department of Justice: Court Support Services.

CREDIT NT first began diverting illicit substance users arrested for drug-related offences into treatment programs in May 2003. Since its inception, 286 clients have been referred by the Court to CREDIT NT. The overall completion rate for clients accepted into the program is 78.5% - being 56% of people referred to the program in Alice Springs and 83% of those referred in Darwin. The success of CREDIT NT in reducing illicit substance use harm has surpassed expectation.

Highly Commended: *Jidan Gudbelawei (Kriol) – Peace at Home*. Police, Fire and Emergency Services: Katherine Integrated Family Violence Service (Also highly commended in the Engagement with the Community category – see above).

Regional and Remote Development Category

Winner: *Progressive Joint Management in partnership with Indigenous people of the Katherine region.* Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory (PWSNT).

The Nitmiluk, Flora River and Gregory National Parks represent three different levels of progress in joint management between the PWSNT and Traditional Owners under the NT Government's *Framework for the Future Act*. They reflect the exciting inroads forged so far in the often- delicate journey towards sound and harmonious park management outcomes. (Also highly commended in the indigenous community development category).

Highly Commended: *Remote Workforce Development Strategy – Revive and Refocus Forums.* Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment: Strategic Workforce Development.

Revive and Refocus Forums are a unique personal and professional development opportunity for remote NTPS employees not on offer in any other Australian jurisdiction. The program includes reflective and re-grouping activities to develop strategies for a range of issues including cross cultural effectiveness, and inter-agency collaboration for improved program delivery.

Highly Commended: *Dhimurru Indigenous Protective Area – “Both ways” management.* Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory (PWSNT).

Dhimurru Land Management Aboriginal Corporation (Dhimurru) and the PWSNT have had a formal agreement to jointly manage the Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area since 2003. In the spirit of “both ways” management, rangers and staff from both organisations successfully share and practice aspects of traditional and contemporary land management on a day to day basis, with the care and control remaining in the hands of the Traditional Owners, according to the vision of their elders.

Indigenous Community Development Category

Winner: *Dhimurru Indigenous Protective Area – “Both ways” management.* Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory. (Also highly commended in the regional and remote development category – see above).

Highly Commended: *Flexible Employment Program in Southern Region Parks.* Parks and Wildlife Services of the Northern Territory.

The Flexible Employment Program provides parks-based employment and training for Aboriginal people involved in joint management. Since the program's inception, over 150 Aboriginal people have participated completing 106 projects, with a number of participants progressing to full time employment.

Highly Commended: *Libraries and Knowledge Centres Program*. Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport: Northern Territory Library. (Also winner of the Engagement with the Community category – see above).

Highly Commended: *Progressive Joint Management in partnership with Indigenous people of the Katherine region*. Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory. (Also winner of Remote and Regional Development category – see above).