Graduate Nurse of the Year:
Woojung Jin, Royal Darwin Hospital

Woojung Jin, known as Jin, was offered and accepted a placement in Aged Care when she commenced her Graduate Nurse Program in 2012. This was a new initiative and Jin was one of four graduates who agreed to pioneer this area. Jin was an active team member, quickly adapting to the role of RN on shift. She was able to work independently and confidently within her scope of practice. Jin faced many challenges with her placement, including assisting the Director of Nursing with preparing the facility for accreditation. She faced these challenges with courage and professionalism; and performed at a level far exceeding expectations for a new graduate. Jin showed the residents respect and understanding; preparing a profile and case history for each one. This assisted her to develop a beautiful professional, caring relationship with the residents. Jin also commenced workbooks relevant to her next placement in the Special Care Nursery; carefully preparing for a completely new setting. The Nurse Manager of the Special Care Nursery said she, “… would have Jin back here in an instant”. Jin is an exceptional and inspirational nurse who has made a difference in the clinical domain.

Living Legend:
Pauline Hateley, Katherine Community Health Centre

Pauline is a dedicated and remarkable Child and Family Health Nurse. She has worked at the Katherine Community Health Centre for 26 years, making her the longest serving Child and Family Health Nurse at the centre. Described as a “quiet achiever”, Pauline is the backbone of the service. A colleague says, “Her unpretentious calm, caring manner has always shone through, and she embodies all the qualities you would hope for in the ideal Child and Family Health Nurse.”

Pauline is respected and admired by colleagues and clients alike. Pauline has a progressive approach to clinical practice, and is always keen to pass on her knowledge to nursing students and colleagues. She was not only instrumental in modernizing antenatal classes soon after arriving in Katherine, but co-facilitated them for 24 years. It is well known that the families of Katherine value Pauline’s care and feel comfortable with her visiting them in their homes. Pauline has earned a reputation as a most trusted expert Child and Family Health Nurse and she will be sadly missed when she retires from this service.

Aged, Disability and Residential Care:
Catherine Brown, Aged Care and Disability Program

Catherine is an exemplary nurse who demonstrates outstanding clinical skills, leadership and commitment to her clients and peers. Catherine is currently working on establishing models of care to improve client access to psycho-geriatric services. This includes access to services across the acute, sub-acute, community and residential care sectors. Catherine has also been integral to the NT Aged Care Nurse Practitioner Project. She completed her Masters of Nursing (Nurse Practitioner) at Flinders University and is employed as a Nurse Practitioner.
Catherine recently initiated a nurse-led clinic at a residential aged care facility. The clinic provides consultation and case management for clients referred by nurses, healthcare workers and medical staff. Catherine leads education sessions for healthcare providers to enhance their recognition and treatment of early dementia. She is also initiating an education program for staff and families in association with the nurse-led clinic. Catherine is on the executive of the NT branch of the Australian Association of Gerontology, she is also a member of the Australian College of Nurse Practitioners and the Psychogeriatric Nurses Association of Australia. Catherine is an exceptional and inspirational nurse. Her contribution makes a difference to clients and families in some of the most difficult circumstances of their lives.

**Education, Research and Innovation:**  
**Suresh Sharma, Royal Darwin Hospital**

Suresh Sharma was chosen for his work with sufferers of liver cancer; and for his contribution to the management of chronic conditions over the past 13 years in both remote and urban settings. He set up and runs supervised nurse-led hepatology/liver clinics. He organises multidisciplinary team meetings for patients with liver cancer using teleconferencing technology. NT patients now have access to interstate specialists in this field. Due to his perseverance, a FibroScan Machine is now available at the Royal Darwin Hospital. This equipment uses a non-invasive, painless technique to diagnose liver damage; when previously a liver biopsy was required. Suresh personally lobbied the local Rotary Club for sponsorship resulting in the purchase of the machine, which he is trained to operate.

Suresh spent four years participating in research projects and has presented research findings at both interstate and international conferences. He is on the committee of the NT chapter of the Australian College of Nurses, and is currently studying towards his Master of Nursing - Nurse Practitioner. Although based at the Royal Darwin Hospital, Suresh works closely with health service providers across a wide range of settings, including rural and remote. This ability helps him make the patient journey seamless.

**Enrolled Nurse:**  
**Maria Howman, Alice Springs Hospital**

Maria (Maz) Howman works in the Emergency Department at Alice Springs Hospital. Maz has been chosen for her professionalism, exceptional care, and dedication above and beyond the expectations of her role. She has an exceptional attitude to patients, her work colleagues and ancillary staff. Her welcoming manner is much appreciated by patients who often present at the Emergency Department under very stressful situations.

Maz demonstrates an awareness and interest in the condition of all patients in her care. She is a great advocate for her patients, and this shone through in her nominations. One of her patients says, ‘Maz has always gone above and beyond her duty of care to me and made my stay bearable. But above all, she has made me feel human in a foreign environment.’ Maz knows the Alice Springs Hospital like the back of her hand; she will help anyone; and is always available to work overtime. She is a volunteer with the Drovers, helping out with patient transport and assisting with the annual Drovers Ball. She also organises most of the ward functions. Maz is described by her colleagues as, ‘… 100% reliable and a truly loving and caring person, she is amazing.’
Hospital Care:
Tom Harbinson, Darwin Private Hospital

Tom Harbinson works in Peri-operative Services at the Darwin Private Hospital. His nomination came from a patient who is happy to disclose her breast cancer diagnosis and her journey. This patient made the comment that, “Breast Cancer is an awful thing, but on the journey you come in contact with people who make a difference in your life, and Tom is one such person.”
Tom is a nurse who shows extraordinary compassion and inspires trust. He has the ability to put people at ease in situations which, by their nature, are stressful and tense. The Operating Theatre is not a place that you would normally feel at ease in, but Tom has the ability to make everyone feel relaxed. He takes the time to speak with people who are struggling to cope. According to the patient who nominated him, Tom is more than just a nurse; he is a compassionate, caring person and a great patient advocate. When asked to describe him, Tom’s fellow nurses at the Darwin Private Hospital, first comments are, “Tom is such a nice guy.” Immediately followed by, “… and such a good nurse.”

Leadership + Nurse or Midwife of the Year:
Tain Gardiner, Royal Darwin Hospital

Tain is the Clinical Nurse Manager of the Infection Prevention and Management Unit based at the Royal Darwin Hospital. She is described as an outstanding role model for patients and colleagues alike. She works tirelessly with her team to improve Infection prevention and management practices by individuals, within each hospital, and within the wider community. Tain is a diligent nurse leader with a strong voice for her colleagues, patients and anyone else who requires a voice within the health sector. She is also a strong advocate for education; seeing each person as an individual and always willing to assist with their personal and professional growth. She is always keen to pass on her skills, knowledge and professional vision, not only to nurses and midwives, but to all healthcare staff. Tain clearly understands that working for the Department of Health means the whole agency. She provides advice on infection control to all five hospitals, community health, mental health, remote health, and the prison system. Last year, she led accreditation for Infection Control across the NT hospitals.
Tain has proven that with drive, passion and strong leadership skills, it is possible to lead change and achieve better outcomes for our patients.

Mental Health
Leanore Torrens, Top End Mental Health Services

Lea has had an interesting career in mental health nursing. She began her career as an Enrolled Nurse. She then gained specialist enrolled nursing qualifications in mental health while working in an acute mental health inpatient unit. During this time she also obtained her registration as a General Nurse, and subsequently a Graduate Diploma in Mental Health Nursing. Lea moved to the Northern Territory over 15 years ago and, throughout her time, has worked consistently in the Top End Mental Health Service Inpatient Unit.
Lea delivers outstanding care to clients and is a strong advocate for mental health nursing and mental health nurses. Her care and standards are client centred and focused on recovery. In this area she is an exemplary model to her peers. She is a strong supporter of staff-initiated projects such as Clinical Supervision, Peer Support and Early Aggression Minimisation Response. She is a committed and passionate nurse who is active in the College and in various organisational committees. She also demonstrates strong, professional and active leadership in mental health nursing.
**Midwifery**
*Sheryl Alexander, Midwifery Group Practice, Alice Springs*

Sheryl is a founding member of the Alice Springs Midwifery Group Practice. Prior to this, Sheryl worked in both remote and hospital settings. She is well known in Alice Springs and surrounding communities for her midwifery skills and her advocacy for women. Sheryl's midwifery skills are outstanding, and she is highly respected by all professional groups within Maternity Services. Her colleagues describe her as a great mentor. She provides support to less experienced midwives; she is always approachable; and she listens to her colleagues and supports them. She is an active member of the Australian College of Midwives. She organises education and fundraising events and passionately promotes and supports the midwifery profession. She spends her annual leave teaching midwives across rural and remote Australia through the CRANA Maternity Emergency Care Course. One of her clients said, “I believe that Sheryl goes far beyond her call of duty and she is without doubt the most dedicated Midwife I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Sheryl truly is an inspirational woman.”

**Primary Health Care Services**
*Coralie Brannelly, Community Health Darwin*

Coralie works as a Community Health Nurse. She has demonstrated her comprehensive and outstanding clinical skills, along with her adaptability, by successfully fulfilling a number of clinical roles in the areas of respiratory, wound and spinal care. Coralie has a well-developed understanding of how and where to reach community groups. She has organised Breathe Easy Walk Easy Workshops which were a great success. Other examples of Coralie’s capacity to help improve health services for her clients include: identifying gaps in respiratory information resources; developing the appropriate resources; and negotiating with industry to obtain free innovative respiratory devices to trial. Coralie has a professional commitment to give all people access to health services. She works with non-government organisations in an advisory capacity; and also assists in setting up programs for disenfranchised people, working in conjunction with the RDH Indigenous Cultural Advisor. She is one of the main players in the disaster management planning for respiratory clients. She was instrumental in developing the NT-wide database for respiratory clients on WEB EOC. The database lists people who are vulnerable to power outages during disasters. It ensures people who need support are monitored and contacted in the event of a disaster.

**Remote Health**
*Michele Smith, Central Australia Remote Health*

Michele originally trained as an enrolled nurse in South Africa and later completed her Bachelor of Nursing in New Zealand. Michele then worked for over ten years as a theatre nurse in South Africa and New Zealand, with a short stint in Day Surgery in Alice Springs. In 2011, Michele began working as a remote area nurse at the Ampilatwatja Health Centre in Central Australia. Her next position was Health Centre Manager at Canteen Creek, a small community 300 kilometres from Tennant Creek. The Canteen Creek Community members quickly warmed to Michele’s pleasant disposition and caring nature, and referred to her as, “their sister”.

In January this year, Michele took on the role of Primary Health Care Manager at the Borroloola Health Centre. A difficult role she has approached with great energy and enthusiasm. Michele advocates for her clients and supports a community empowered model of primary health care. She demonstrates commitment to improving the skills of Aboriginal
Health Practitioners and community members. Michele leads by example and strives to incorporate best practice into her daily routine and is always seeking opportunities to improve client care.