The Chief Minister’s Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector is the Northern Territory Government’s showcase event and formally recognises and rewards Northern Territory Public Sector (NTPS) teams and work groups for outstanding achievements, as well as outstanding partnerships between the public sector and private enterprise. The prestigious awards acknowledge significant initiatives that make a positive difference to the Public Sector and Northern Territory community.

**Chief Minister’s medals**

As part of the Northern Territory Government’s commitment to excellence in the Public Sector, the Chief Minister’s Public Sector Medal is a prestigious medal designed to recognise an individual’s outstanding and commendable public service. The Medal includes all public servants, from office administrators, to front-line staff providing services to the public.

Congratulations to all the nominees, finalists and winners.

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**The Chief Minister’s Award for Developing the North and Building Regional and/or Remote Economies**

**Gove Transition Project - Department of the Chief Minister and Department of Business**

The Department of the Chief Minister and the Department of Business led the Gove Transition Project, aimed at managing the impacts to community and business during the downsizing of Rio Tinto’s alumina refinery. The project team worked closely with Rio Tinto and the Gove community to develop diverse economic opportunities and strengthen the capacity of local businesses.

The team also ran the Business Growth Program which attracted more than 75 business operators, assisting them to successfully transition to the new environment. Through their efforts, new industries have emerged including tourism, service delivery and fisheries.

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Enriching our Society or Enhancing our Culture and Lifestyle**

**Cyclone Tracy: 40 years on - Department of Arts and Museums**

The Cyclone Tracy Project revitalised one of the Northern Territory’s most powerful tributes, the Cyclone Tracy exhibition at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory. On the eve of the 40th anniversary of Cyclone Tracy, a new interactive experience was unveiled resulting in record visitation numbers during the exhibition’s opening month.

New elements were introduced to the Cyclone Tracy exhibition, including an eight metre high historic railway tower, bent and twisted by the cyclone, digital technology enabling visitors to search for the names of around 35,000 evacuees and deceased persons and then-and-now photographs comparing Darwin 40 years on from the cyclone.

Appreciating the deep connection of cyclone survivors with the exhibition, those affected by Tracy were actively involved in the development process, ensuring their personal stories remained at the heart of the exhibition.

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Delivering Quality Customer Services**

**Get on Get Connected - Department of Transport**

The Department of Transport seamlessly rolled out a range of improvements to public bus networks in Darwin and Alice Springs. Changes were designed to provide a better passenger experience and included the introduction of a single electronic ticketing system across the networks, a reusable plastic ‘Tap & Ride Card’ and a smartphone app and online resource featuring real-time bus arrival information.

The new ticketing system enabled the department to collect accurate passenger data which would assist with the design of more efficient and effective transport networks in the future, such as the Greater Darwin Public Transport Network.

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Delivering a Balanced Environment**

**Darwin Harbour Coastal Dolphin Monitoring Program - Department of Land Resource Management**

The Darwin Harbour Coastal Dolphin Monitoring Program is a jointly funded collaboration between the Department of Land Resource Management and INPEX Operations Australia to monitor three species of coastal dolphins during the Ichthys Project marine construction activities in Darwin Harbour from 2011 to 2015.

The project developed a world leading monitoring program which showed the abundance of dolphins had remained stable throughout the marine construction period, and established a baseline for dolphin populations in the harbour.

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Delivering Quality Services**

**Independent Public Schools - Department of Education**

The Department of Education introduced Independent Public Schools, aiming to increase autonomy. Since its introduction, six Territory schools have transitioned to become independent public schools, with a further six to commence as independent in 2016, including the first remote school in an Indigenous community.

The program plays a vital role in addressing health professional skill shortages in the Territory, while also contributing to better economic opportunities and strengthening the capacity of local businesses.

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Strengthening Government and Public Administration**

**Indigenous Employment Outcomes**

For commendable service to the NTPS and broader NT community during the preparation, response, and recovery phases of Cyclones Lam and Nathan earlier this year.

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Enriching our Society or Enhancing our Culture and Lifestyle**

**Appreciating the deep connection of cyclone survivors with the exhibition, those affected by Tracy were actively involved in the development process, ensuring their personal stories remained at the heart of the exhibition.**

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**Up to 10 Medals are awarded each year and this year’s recipients are:**

**Elizabeth Olle - Department of Children and Families**

For leading role in the ‘Family Safety Framework’ in Alice Springs and demonstrated commitment and contribution to increasing safety to vulnerable Territorians across the NT is commendable.

**Ann Vincent - Department of Corporate and Information Services**

For contribution to sector wide Indigenous employment and development strategies benefiting the NTPS and broader NT community.

**Peter Brocklehurst - Department of Lands Resource Management**

For dedication and commendable efforts in progressing vegetation information in the NT from a state of paucity to an extensive number of readily available and nationally consistent datasets and maps.

**Tracey Mehonoshen - Department of Infrastructure**

For commendable leadership and mentoring capabilities as an Indigenous Employment and Training Officer which resulted in a significant increase in Indigenous representation in DoI within the last two years.

**Bryan Hughes - Department of Education**

For commendable service to the NTPS and broader NT community during the preparation, response, and recovery phases of Cyclones Lam and Nathan earlier this year.