Everyone Belongs: Harmony Day 2009

Three Territorians were last night awarded the prestigious Charles See Kee Awards as part of Harmony Day celebrations in the Top End – celebrated nationally today.

The awards, announced at a Parliament House reception yesterday evening, recognise the achievements of Territorians who have made an outstanding contribution towards advancing multiculturalism in the NT.

Minister Assisting the Chief Minister on Multicultural Affairs, Malarndirri McCarthy, said the NT Government also provided more than $40,000 in funding for Harmony Day events and activities across the Territory.

“This year the message of Harmony Day is Everyone Belongs, and I think it is an important reminder of the wonderful enrichment to our community that multiculturalism brings,” Ms McCarthy said.

“This is why I was pleased to announce the recipients of the important Charles See Kee Awards, which are in their fifth year and were introduced by the NT Labor Government.”

This year’s recipients are:

Mrs Lourdes Valles; Mrs Valles has been a champion for promoting and fostering the spirit and principles of multiculturalism in Darwin, Humpty Doo and Alice Springs school communities as well as in the Darwin and Alice Springs Filipino communities. She has also written educational programs aimed at teaching and learning the Filipino language at Casuarina Senior College night school and the NT School of Languages.

Mr Adam Lowe; for his outstanding contribution to the local Chinese community of Darwin and for the advancement of ethnic tolerance through education of the general public about the Chinese culture and heritage. Mr Lowe is a patriarch of the Chinese community and has made an extensive personal contribution to the preservation of local Chinese history.

Mr John Nicolakis; for working tirelessly to assist and improve the lives of Greek immigrants to the Northern Territory. Mr Nicolakis has dedicated many years of service to supporting and promoting our diverse community and assisting charities. He has held the position of President of the Greek Orthodox Community on a number of occasions.

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