Aboriginal Health Worker Excellence Awards

Minister for Health Kon Vatskalis has congratulated the recipients of this year’s Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) Excellence Awards, presented at a function at Parliament House this evening.

“Aboriginal Health Workers are essential health professionals who not only deliver valuable health services across the Territory, but perform the important task of maintaining links between the community and the health system,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Senior Aboriginal Health Worker, Marion Swift, who is part of the Child Health Development program at Ntaria Health Clinic in Central Australia, was presented with the highest honour, the “Legend” Award, as well as winning the Remote Health category.

“Ms Swift has been an Aboriginal Health Worker for 28 years and during this time she has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to her community and to the wellbeing of children and young people,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Winners in three more categories joined Ms Swift in receiving an AHW Award for Excellence:

**REMOTE HEALTH**
- Marion Swift (winner)
- Jeremy Downs (highly commended)

**SPECIALISED**
- Jennifer Thompson (winner)
- Elaine Campbell (highly commended)

**URBAN**
- Louise Dennis (winner)

**NEW PRACTITIONER**
- Alison Andrews (winner)
- Irene Ogilvie (highly commended)

“A total of 66 nominations were received for this year’s AHW Excellence Awards, providing for an extremely competitive field,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Ms Swift receives a study bursary of $3000 to help develop her skills, winners in each category revive a $1500 study bursary, while runners up each receive $800 study bursary.

The AHW Excellence Awards are an ongoing initiative of the Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise in partnership with the Department of Health, United Voice NT, Department of Health and Ageing and AMSANT.

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