Minister for Health Kon Vatskalis has congratulated the recipients of the inaugural NT Disability Service Awards as International Day of People with a Disability is celebrated nationally today.

“This new Territory-based award has been created to recognise individuals and organisations that provide exceptional support for people with a disability,” Mr Vatskalis said.

The awards are split into two categories, Disability Support Worker and Service or Business of the Year.

“Even in its first year, the calibre of nominations was extremely high and selecting just one winner in each category was a difficult task,” Mr Vatskalis said.

Victoria McConvell from Life Without Barriers was named the Territory’s first Disability Support Worker of the Year, and Andrew Barcroft – The Good Guys took out the honour of Service/Business of the Year.

“Ms McConvell has built a fantastic relationship with her clients and staff and through hard work, passion, dedication and commitment has provided opportunities for her clients to develop and broaden their experiences,” he said.

“Disability Support Workers are an integral part of the community and health system, providing direct personal care and support for people with disability to become valued members of the community.”

“Since 2006 Andrew Barcroft - The Good Guys has actively supported young people with disability by funding innovative programs aimed at actively engaging students with a disability.

“It’s important we acknowledge the good work done by services and businesses like the Good Guys, that provide outstanding service and support for people with a disability, while creating opportunities for them to engage and participate in the community.”

The awards coincide with International Day of People with Disability (December 3) to raise awareness of disability and acknowledge that people with a disability play important roles in the community.

“I congratulate all nominees for their dedication to raising public awareness and providing support and opportunities for people with a disability,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“I look forward to seeing more individuals, businesses and services stepping up to the plate to support people with disability, and being recognised with one of these awards in the years to come.”

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