Embargoed until 7pm Monday 3 December

The Territory’s biggest supporters of people with disability were honoured at the second annual NT Disability Service Awards at Parliament House this evening.

“These Territory-based awards celebrate and acknowledge the individuals and organisations that support and give opportunities to people with disability,” Minister for Health, Dave Tollner, said.

He presented individuals, services and businesses from government and non-government sectors with awards recognising their outstanding commitment to improving the lives of people with disability.

“It’s encouraging to see such competitive fields across all four categories of the awards,” he said.

“This reflects the great work being done to support people with disability to increase their independence and to become valuable contributors to their communities.”

The 2012 NT Disability Support Award winners are:

Adrian Riessen from Guide Dogs NT
Disability Sector (non-Government) Employee of the Year

Judy Grant from Student Services Sanderson Middle School
Disability Sector (Government) Employee of the Year

NT Automotive Group (Darwin Hyundai)
Mainstream (non-Government) Service/Business of the Year

The Opportunity Knocks Op Shop, Nightcliff
Mainstream (Government) Service/Business of the Year
“Mr Riessen, the orientation and mobility instructor with Guide Dogs NT goes the extra mile to ensure that his clients have the opportunity be independent and active in the broader community,” Mr Tollner said.

“Ms Grant works tirelessly to provide her clients, who include students of Sanderson Middle School, with the support they need to access the best opportunities possible.

“The NT Automotive Group has provided exceptional commitment and support to the employment of a young woman with disability.

“The Opportunity Knocks Op Shop has been recognised as a great working example of valuing diversity and difference in the workplace.”

The awards coincide with International Day of People with Disability which carries the theme Removing barriers to create an inclusive and accessible society for all.

“All the winners of the 2012 Northern Territory Disability Services Awards are great examples of how to achieve this,” Mr Tollner said.

“I congratulate Adrian Riessen, Judy Grant, the NT Automotive Group and the Opportunity Knocks Op Shop and all the nominees for their dedication to raising public awareness and providing support and opportunities for people with disability.

“I look forward to seeing more individuals, businesses and services taking a lead from the examples set by these award winners and doing their bit to support Territorians with disability.”

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