PRAISE FOR ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKERS

December 14th, 2012

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The Territory’s Aboriginal Health Workers demonstrate an outstanding commitment to their work on a daily basis, says the Minister for Health, Dave Tollner.

Presenting the 2012 Aboriginal Health Worker Excellence Awards at Parliament House this evening Mr Tollner said Aboriginal Health Workers are an essential part of the Territory’s health system.

“This is especially true out bush where they not only provide health care; they build and maintain strong relationships between communities and their health services,” he said.

The finalists were nominated by their colleagues, communities or patients for their commitment and excellence in their chosen field of practice.

The annual awards attracted an impressive field of Aboriginal Health Workers from both the Department of Health and Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Services from across the NT.

The top honour, the “Legend” Award for Excellence as an Aboriginal Health Worker, went to Robinson River Health Centre’s Bruce Herbert.

Mr Herbert’s career has spanned four decades, from the early days of Aboriginal Health Workers. “He has become a highly respected practitioner,” Mr Tollner said.

The winners in all categories were:

REMOTE HEALTH

Bruce Herbert (Winner)
Robinson River Health Centre (DoH)
Anne Marie Puruntantameri (Runner Up)
Pirlangimi Health Centre (DoH)

SPECIALISED

Veronica (Bonny) King (Winner)
Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Service, Katherine
Leonard Law (Runner Up)
Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs
URBAN

Ross Cole (Winner)

Central Australia Remote Health (DoH)

Velma King (Runner Up)

Wurli-Wurlinjang Health Service, Katherine

NEW PRACTITIONER

Kym Stanton (Winner)

Central Australian Aboriginal Congress, Alice Springs

Runners up and winners in each category received study bursaries, with the winner of the new practitioner category also receiving vouchers to purchase personal education and clinical equipment.

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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