Some of the Territory’s greatest supporters of people with a disability were honoured at an awards ceremony in Darwin this evening.

Minister for Health Robyn Lambley said the Northern Territory Disability Services Awards celebrate the positive work undertaken by employees in the disability sector, as well as mainstream services and businesses who are committed to improving the lives of people with a disability.

“The Government has committed to supporting Territorians with a disability to improve their education, training and employment outcomes,” Mrs Lambley said.

“These awards help to acknowledge the great efforts being made across the board by individuals, businesses, organisations and government agencies to reach these goals.”

Now in its third year, the NT Disability Services Awards continue to grow in prominence and were this year coordinated by National Disability Services NT with support from the Government.

The awards are presented across a range of categories recognising both the government and non-government sectors.

The 2013 NT Disability Services Award Winners are:

**Disability Sector Employees Award (Non-Government)**
Rachel Kroes - Down Syndrome Association, Project 21
Rachel has shown great dedication to Project 21, a program that provides opportunities for young adults with Down Syndrome and other young people with an intellectual disability moving from school to the workplace.

**Disability Sector Employees Award (Government)**
Michelle Kragt - Special Education Support Officer, Nemarluk Specialist School
A decade of work as a Special Education Support Officer with Nemarluk Specialist School has seen Michelle assist students in achieving extraordinary results.

**Remote Disability Sector Employees Award (Government & Non-Government)**
Diane Krepp - Department of Health
Diane’s work in the Katherine region has been pivotal in supporting many individuals to make choices leading to an enhanced quality of life.

**Operational Support Disability Sector Employees Award (Government & Non-Government)**
David Sheasby - Training and Compliance Officer, Sommerville Community Services
As Training and Compliance Officer with Sommerville Community Services, David Sheasby has fostered a culture where staff actively pursue training in disability services.
Mainstream Business Award (Non-Government)  
Bromeliad Bed and Breakfast – Karama  
Requiring wheelchair-friendly access for their son equipped the owners of Bromeliad Bed and Breakfast, Carol and Geoff McKenzie, with the idea of creating a totally accessible accommodation option for the NT.

Mainstream Business Award (Government)  
Office of the Commissioner for Public Employment (OCPE)  
Since the Office of Public Employment began its Disability Employment Program in 1994, more than 60 people with a disability who would not have met selection criteria for government positions due to their disability, have been supported to train and work in the public service.

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