Award Recipient Biographies

Tina White – Nurse/Midwife of the Year
Tina received seven nominations across three categories: Midwifery, Remote and Leadership. She is a highly respected midwifery leader amongst her peers, demonstrating professionalism, competence, commitment and compassion in her care of mothers and babies. She builds positive relationships and strives to get the best outcomes, engaging clients with the health service and collaborating with staff in the hospital. The Yolngu community have embraced her and trust her and she has been recognised by her Yolngu colleagues for her dedication and caring ‘with open heart and open mind’. Tina led the Maternal and Child Health team in a well-received presentation in Canberra last year enabling them to share Yolngu culture through dance and working together. This award acknowledges the contribution Tina is making to midwifery in the East Arnhem Region.

Raelene Carroll – Excellence in Nursing/Midwifery Leadership
Raelene Carroll holds the position of coordinator of the Midwifery Group Practice (MGP) in Alice Springs Hospital. Departmental and NGO colleagues across the remote and acute sector and her own staff nominated Raelene a total of 7 times across three categories. Under her leadership, the MGP has increased from 6 midwives and a case load of 240 women in 2009 to 11 midwives and 320 women in 2013. This includes all birthing women for the Barkly region and almost half of the births for Alice Springs Hospital. Raelene's leadership qualities are unequalled in Central Australia. Through passion and devotion to continuity and women-centred care models, she has created work conditions for midwives and birthing conditions for women that are safe, flexible and sustainable.

Natalie Colmer – Excellence in Mental Health Nursing
Natalie Colmer is described as a passionate and caring professional who is committed to working with the young in crisis works, working over and above the expectation of her role to provide positive pathways and outcomes for clients with mental health issues. She is considered trustworthy, reliable and highly respected within the youth community in Alice Springs. Natalie volunteers for ‘Canteen’, and has studied extensively to achieve her high level of professionalism. She is a credentialed Mental Health Nurse, holding a Master’s Degree and engages in professional development to keep abreast of current best practices in relation to her chosen field. She demonstrates leadership to others, especially encouraging mental health nurses to pursue their own ongoing professional development.

Susan Dalkie – Excellence in Hospital Nursing
Susan Dalkie presented as exemplifying the essence of excellence in Hospital Care across the course of her nursing career and recently through her role in the specialty of ‘Bleeding Disorders’. She has contributed to developing ‘Bleeding Disorders’ support and education networks; embedding the concept of patient-centred care in the field of ‘Bleeding Disorders’ contributing to the development of the National Australian Bleeding Disorder Registry (ABDR) documentation; and, participating on National and International forums. Susan has also displayed strong leadership and management traits leading the education and development of other expert clinicians; founding a new specialist clinical role; and ensuring safety and compliance against nationally and internationally recognised standards. She is described as being conscientious and ethical by nature; patient and family focussed; and presenting in a respectful, cooperative and responsible manner reflective of the values and vision of her NT Health employer.

Dorian Dent – Excellence in Primary Health Care
Dorian Dent is an experienced Primary Health Care Nurse who has worked in the NT for a number of years: initially as a Remote Area Nurse and Primary Health Care Manager, and more recently as the Manager of the Health Facility at the Alice Springs Correctional Centre. Prisoner Health was transferred to NT Health in October 2012 from private management and has undergone a transition from GP Centred Care to a Primary Health Care model. Managing a staff of 9 Nurses, Mr Dent has implemented significant changes to the client pathway resulting in substantial reductions in transfers to Alice Springs hospital. Dorian has led these
changes with knowledgeable efficiency and effectiveness supported more broadly by the Remote Health Services PHC management team in Alice Springs.

Martina Grimshaw – Excellence in Remote Area Nursing/Midwifery
Martina was nominated twice this year for the Remote Category for her work in Minjilang on Croker Island over the past 8 years. She began her work as an Agency nurse, stayed on as a remote primary health care nurse with NT Health, and has been health centre manager for the past two years. As an accomplished leader she manages health programs, deals with conflict, has insight into being a role model to others and is “a great remote nurse to work with”. Martina values the ongoing development of her own skills and knowledge and is willing to share this knowledge with all who work at the health centre. She supports nurses who are new to remote practice and facilitates undergraduate and postgraduate health professional student placements. Her emphasis on ensuring that all have a positive experience and transition to the remote context both clinically and culturally demonstrates her commitment to future staffing of remote health. Martina is described as an exceptional and inspirational nurse who has directly impacted on the health of the Croker Island people as evidenced by the community’s increasing acceptance of and engagement in health programs. Her commitment particularly to the women and children of this geographically isolated island community makes her 8 years an extraordinary achievement.

Pauline Howard – Excellence in Aged, Disability and Residential care
Pauline has forty-two years nursing experience in acute, midwifery, remote health, and aged care. She is well versed to take on any challenge, demonstrating empathy, compassion, practicality and a strong knowledge base. Pauline manages a multidisciplinary team, leads by example, models high standards of care, shows respect for others and is a positive and inspiring role model. She is well thought of by peers, clients and their families. Pauline’s leadership is centred on up-skilling and empowering staff. She should be acknowledged for her exceptional practice in aged care.

Sandra Markovich – Excellence in Enrolled Nursing
Sandra has demonstrated that she is an exceptional nurse who delivers holistic care to each of her patients, with a strong passion for patient advocacy. Sandra is the dementia resource nurse, a preceptor and assists in education and developing resources. Sandra is also completing further studies to enhance her knowledge to assist patients in palliative care. Sandra’s empathy to patients is described as “going way beyond the normal duties as a nurse”. She fills gaps if patients do not have family support such as ensuring pets are OK at home whilst the patient is in hospital.

Elaine McArthur – Inaugural Administrator’s medal for Lifetime Achievement in Nursing and Midwifery
Elaine has worked at Katherine Hospital since 1981 and has provided a solid commitment and dedication to the women and families of the Katherine region. She is now birthing grandchildren of women she has birthed and they all remember her and how she made them feel. She has maintained an extremely high standard of care to her patients, colleagues and the hospital during this time fulfilling roles across the maternity ward. It is Elaine who attends to all the jobs ‘no-one else thinks about’ until she is away on holidays and we all think, “who normally does this?” Elaine’s life has been about giving to people. This has been by single-handedly supporting her own extended family, travelling to parts of Africa to work with women in highly disadvantaged situations, and her ongoing commitment to women and families right here in the Territory. The staff at Katherine hospital who nominated Elaine said: “Our maternity ward and the world is a much better place for having Elaine McArthur in it and her lifetime dedication to women and families and Katherine Hospital that is held in high-esteem by those who have had their lives touched by her”.

Lesley Scott – Excellence in Education, Research and Innovation
Lesley Scott first came to work in the NT Department of Health in 1985 and has continued within the Communicable Disease team for 29 years. During this time Lesley has developed, implemented and evaluated education programs relating to communicable diseases for participants across the range of health professions, for police, quarantine workers, power and water staff, teachers, child care and aged care workers and members of the public. She has set an example for the value of technology and education by
preparing on-line information and completing a range of relevant courses herself, including the Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Lesley is recognised by her colleagues as being generous in her teaching, and a master at developing novel, innovative and sustainable solutions and in any critical situation, such as the recent measles outbreak. Lesley can be found standing beside staff and volunteers, 'mucking in' and working above and beyond the capacity of many of those around her.

Clancy Tucker – Graduate Nurse of the Year
Mr Tucker commenced the Graduate Nurse Program at Alice Springs Hospital in January of 2013 after graduating from Wollongong University, NSW. Whilst undertaking the program, Clancy has been praised for his delivery of high standard holistic nursing care, client advocacy, patient education and communication skills. He has a great enthusiasm and capacity to further his career goals and ongoing education. Clancy has been of great support to his colleagues by “going the extra mile” in taking his own free time to speak with fellow new graduates placed on the Surgical Ward, to orientate and assist them. Clancy eagerly sought, and was offered a coveted position with the Mental Health Unit team at Alice Springs Hospital; a position which he now occupies. Whilst becoming a valued member of this team, Clancy continues to demonstrate exemplary practice and support of his colleagues by contributing to the planning of education for future new graduates.

Tina White – Excellence in Midwifery
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