Individuals who generously commit their time to caring for vulnerable children have been recognised at the 2014 Northern Territory Foster and Kinship Carer Excellence Awards.

The awards provide an opportunity to recognise the outstanding dedication and contributions that foster and kinship carers make to the Northern Territory’s child protection system.

Minister for Children and Families John Elferink said foster and kinship carers are exceptional people who are dedicated and selfless, and provide an essential service to our community.

“Given the magnitude of benefits that flow from having stable and committed carers, foster and kinship carers are very special people indeed,” Mr Elferink said.

“A carer’s job is often 24 hours a day, seven days a week – all of our carers are incredible.

“The awards publicly acknowledge the carers who go above and beyond in providing care to some of the Territory’s most vulnerable children, those who truly represent quality care, compassion and dedication, which is both inspirational and remarkable.

“There are more than 417 registered foster and kinship carer families caring for 484 children across the Northern Territory.

“Also recognised today were foster and kinship carers who have reached milestone service caring for children in the Northern Territory.

“Notably, Alice Springs carer Ronda Preston will be given a lifetime achievement award at the Alice ceremony. Ronda began fostering 47 years ago in South Australia and has spent the last 15 years providing care to children in the Northern Territory.”

Alice Springs service presentations and their Excellence Award winners will be celebrated at a ceremony in the town on 5 November. All service certificates will be presented at local ceremonies in regional centres.
Winners of the 2014 Northern Territory Foster and Kinship Carer Excellence Awards are:

Greater Darwin:
- Rose Campbell
- Michelle Bush and Ian Brown
- Julie and Dom Crea
- Selma Tom
- Jackie Williams

Katherine/Northern Region
- Kristy Bazevski
- Jamie and Shawn Smith
- Robert Austral

Central Australia Region
- Kellie Hughes
- Kathleen Wileman
- Sam Cameron and Darrin Whatley
- Sonya Alfonso and Kevin Haines

Additional information about each of the winners is attached.

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