Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner Awards open for nominations

2 September 2014

The Minister for Health Robyn Lambley is calling on Territorians to help recognise the talent, skill and dedication of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners, with nominations now open for the profession’s annual awards.

Now in its eighth year, Mrs Lambley said the Excellence Awards honoured practitioners who have demonstrated outstanding qualities in their field.

“We have exceptional health practitioners in the Northern Territory and these awards allow us to celebrate the unique and crucial role they have in our health service,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Each year I am impressed by the achievements of award nominees, including their commitment to improving health outcomes for Indigenous Territorians and the excellence with which they perform their jobs.

“Last week the Country Liberals Government received support from all sides of politics for the Back On Track plan, that aims to increase the number of Aboriginal Health Practitioners in the Territory.

“Aboriginal Health Practitioners are vital to our health service and I have made the commitment to boost the number of practitioners by 10 per cent each year.

“Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance NT chair Marion Scrymgour, AMSANT CEO John Paterson and Central Australian Aboriginal Congress CEO Donna Ah Chee are on the Back on Track taskforce, and together we will work closely with community leaders, health managers and current Aboriginal Health Practitioners to boost the number of practitioners in remote health services.”

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner awards are presented across four categories including Remote, Urban, Specialised and New Practitioner, with the overall ‘Legend Award’ chosen from the four category winners.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners who have been nominated in the past can be nominated again this year.

The awards will be presented during a ceremony at Parliament House on 24 October, with winners and runners up in each category to receive study bursaries to continue to develop their skills.
Nomination close at 5pm on 19 September, and forms can be found at www.nt.gov.au/health/atsihp/ or by calling 8999 2535 or emailing ATSIHPexcellenceawards.doh@nt.gov.au

Media Contact: Phoebe Stewart   0438885774   (08) 8928 6649