Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

‘Innovation Challenge’ announced as NT public servants recognised for excellence

27 November 2015

Northern Territory public servants will be encouraged to develop ideas that could become Government policy as part of an Innovation Challenge pilot project, Chief Minister Adam Giles announced tonight.

Mr Giles made the announcement at the Chief Minister’s Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector at the Darwin Convention Centre tonight.

The Chief Minister said the awards were an opportunity for Northern Territory public sector work teams and individuals to be recognised and rewarded for outstanding performance, innovation, continuous improvement and exceptional results.

“We have talented people in the field and in offices working hard every day to serve the needs of Territorians and make the Northern Territory a better place,” Mr Giles said.

“These awards are about recognising and celebrating that commitment and the outstanding work public servants do on behalf of all Territorians.”

Mr Giles said the Northern Territory Government had last year expanded the awards to include an innovation award and would extend that further with an ‘Innovation Challenge’ pilot project next year.

“The Innovation Challenge is about stimulating innovation and creativity by giving public sector employees an opportunity to develop ideas and solutions which could then go on to become Government policy,” he said.

“It’s about ensuring the Northern Territory Government continues to be competitive, thinks outside the box, improves its processes and practices, and better meets the needs of Territorians.”

Individuals and groups within the public sector will be invited to submit their ideas to a judging panel, which will include the Chief Minister, senior Government officials and private sector experts.

Shortlisted finalists will be given time offline from their normal day jobs to develop a sound business case for their new idea, with the winning idea to go on to become Government policy.

Mr Giles said the quality of the finalists in the awards was a great show of the talent in the public sector with about 80 nominations received and 29 finalists chosen across the eight award categories.

The winners of the 2015 Chief Minister’s Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector are:

- Gove Transition Project (Department of the Chief Minister/Department of Business) – Chief Minister’s Award for Developing the North and/or Remote Economies
- Cyclone Tracy: 40 years on (Department of Arts and Museums) – Chief Minister’s Award for Enriching our Society or Enhancing our Culture and Lifestyle
• Darwin Harbour Coastal Dolphin Monitoring Program (Department of Land Resource Management) – Chief Minister’s Award for Delivering a Balanced Environment

• Get on Get Connected – Bus Ticketing Technology (Department of Transport) and Housing and Community Safety and Client Relations (Department of Housing) – Chief Minister’s Award for Delivering Quality Customer Services

• Independent Public Schools (Department of Education) – Chief Minister’s Award for Strengthening Government and Public Administration

• Safety is Everyone’s Right – NT Domestic and Family Violence (Department of Attorney-General and Justice) – Chief Minister’s Award for Excellence in Partnering

• Be Crocwise Animated Video and Social Media Campaign (Parks and Wildlife Commission of the NT) – Chief Minister’s Award for Innovation in the Public Sector

• NT Health Indigenous Cadetship Program (Department of Health) – Chief Minister’s Award for Improving Indigenous Outcomes

In addition, individual medal presentations were made with Colleen Rosas, from the Department of Local Government and Community Services, receiving the 2015 Chief Minister’s Public Sector Outstanding Indigenous Leadership Medal and Mr Peter Shapcott recognised for the milestone of 50 years’ service with the Northern Territory public service.

Chief Minister’s Medal Recipients for 2015 included:

• Elizabeth Olle – Department of Children and Families

• Ann Vincent – Department of Corporate and Information Services

• Peter Brocklehurst – Department of Land Resource Management

• Tracey Mehonoshen – Department of Infrastructure

• Bryan Hughes – Department of Education

• Daryll Kinnane – Department of Education

• Jill Tudor – Department of Education

• Selena Uibo – Department of Education

• Tim Schatz – Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

**Media Contact: Scott Whitby 0438 531 583**