Ethnic Affairs Minister, Kon Vatskalis, today proudly announced the winners of the inaugural “Multicultural Awards.”

The Minister said the new awards recognise and celebrate outstanding community and organisational achievements in promoting multiculturalism and counteracting racism, which contributes to the great lifestyle we all enjoy in the Territory.

“30 nominations were received for four awards across three categories - individual, organisation and initiative/project,” he said.

Minister Vatskalis said he was delighted with the high level of response to the awards which were judged by a six member independent panel.

The winners of the awards are:

- in the category of a young person aged under 25 - Mr Deng Mador Koch, Darwin;
- in the category of a person aged over 25 - Ms Marguerite Baptiste-Rooke, Alice Springs;
- in the organisation category - the Multicultural Council of the NT, Darwin; and
- in the initiative/project category - Sanderson High School, Darwin.

The two individual category winners received $500 each in prize money. Both winners impressed the judges with their initiatives in bringing the community together, contributing towards capacity building, advancing multiculturalism, and enhancing services and working relationships with culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

The organisation category winner was awarded $1 000. In winning this award the Multicultural Council of the NT (MCNT) has demonstrated an outstanding contribution to advancing multiculturalism and counteracting racism in the NT through a broad range of activities.

The initiative/project category winner was awarded $500. Sanderson High School impressed the judges with their Harmony Day celebrations. With this initiative the school instilled their students with respect, an appreciation for cultural diversity and a sense of community harmony.

“I’d like to congratulate everyone involved with the inaugural awards, and thank the members of the panel. I am sure the award recipients will set a great example for future nominees of the Multicultural Awards,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“I’d encourage all involved in our ethnic community – particularly Indigenous Territorians and the business community – to nominate for next years Multicultural Awards.”