2005 Mental Health Week was launched in Darwin this morning by Family and Community Services Minister, Delia Lawrie.

Ms Lawrie said the annual event runs from the 9th - 15th October this year, with various events planned in Darwin and Alice Springs.

“Mental Health Week is all about raising awareness of mental health issues in the community. The NT theme for this year is ‘Mental and Physical Health Across the Lifespan’ which importantly recognises there is no health without mental health,” said Ms Lawrie.

“We also have a guest speaker in the Territory for the week sharing his experience of mental health. Mr Greg Wilson – a highly regarded Australian artist – will speak at schools and open forums about his experiences with depression and how he learnt to manage his illness.”

Ms Lawrie said this year’s Mental Health Week will also recognise the role of art and creativity in promoting positive mental health.

“The sub theme for this year’s events is ‘With Arts in Mind’. Entries of a competition leading up to Mental Health Week are now on display at Casuarina Shopping Centre,” she said.

The following winners of the art competition were announced at the launch –

Over 18 Painting and Drawing - David James Nichollos
Under 18 3D - Robert Hale
Over 18 3D - Natalie McDowell
Under 18 Photo/Digital - Chloe Carson
Over 18 Photo/Digital - Pat King

The following individuals were awarded high commendation for their entry -

Sue Fairhill
Truce Haynes
Candice Liddy
Dana L Duncan

The Minister extended her thanks to the NT Mental Health Coalition for co-ordinating this year’s event.

A copy of the Calendar of Events is attached.

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