A Tennant Creek woman who helped administer first aid to tourists injured in a bus crash in Egypt has been named the 2006 Northern Territory Nurse of the Year.

The Health Minister Peter Toyne presented Mary Williams with her award during a ceremony at Parliament House tonight.

Ms Williams is the acting General Manager and Director of Nursing at Tennant Creek Hospital.

She was holidaying in Egypt with her family in January this year when she found herself treating some of the 26 people injured after their bus flipped on a major highway near Cairo. Six Australians died in the accident.

Ms Williams’ triage skills enabled her to prioritise the injured for transport and provide basic treatment.

“Mary’s skills and the experience gained during 32 years of nursing assisted her in coping with this horrific tragedy,” Dr Toyne said.

“Those same skills also help in her hospital work. On an average day Mary could be working in the emergency department, before rushing off to the operating theatre while trying to finish the nursing roster.

“She has an extremely good sense of humour that helps deal with almost anything. Mary is an aspiring role model.”

Dr Toyne also paid tribute to the other category winners in this year’s awards.

“The judges’ decisions were very hard because of the high calibre of nominations – a great reflection of the regard Territorians have for the unique and often difficult work nurses and midwives do,” he said.

“I’m sure all Territorians join me in not only congratulating the winners but thanking them too.”

See over for the full list of winners
The 2006 Nursing & Midwifery Awards category winners were:

**Living Legend** – Nan Miller, retired from the Centre for Disease Control

**Graduate Nurse** – Bridget Franc, Royal Darwin Hospital

**Acute Care** – Mary Williams, acting General Manager and Director of Nursing at Tennant Creek Hospital

**Aged Care and General Practice** – Mary Greenup, Tiwi Gardens Aged Care

**Community Nursing** – Tim Emerton, Alcohol & Other Drugs, Darwin

**Mental Health Nurse** – Deborah Spurgeon, Top End Mental Health Services

**Midwifery** – Heather Hancock, Homebirthing Services, Alice Springs and Darwin

**Remote Nurse** – Janet Rigby, Wadeye Health Centre

**Nurse of the Year** – Mary Williams

A full list of all nominees and award winners is available from [http://www.health.nt.gov.au](http://www.health.nt.gov.au)

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