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Celebrating the Territory’s Midwives

Northern Territory midwives are being honoured today as the International Day of the Midwife is celebrated around the world.

The worldwide celebration of Midwives began in 1992 as an initiative of the International Confederation of Midwives to celebrate midwifery and to create awareness of midwives’ roles in the community.

Health Minister Kon Vatskalis today commended the Territory’s midwives, saying they played a vital role in the community.

“The NT Department of Health and Families employs around 450 midwives in the five NT hospitals, remote health centres and community based programs, including the Midwifery Group Practices in Darwin and Alice Springs, and the Home Birth program,” he said.

“The role of midwives in the pregnancy and birth process is so very important, and really makes a difference to women and their families during pregnancy, birth and the post natal period.

“Our dedicated and hard working team of professionals plays a huge role in giving new Territorians the best possible start in life, and ensuring the provision of collaborative maternity care for all Territory women.”

Territorian midwives will be honoured next week at the 2010 NT Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards.

The NT Nursing and Midwifery Awards recognise the achievements and ongoing hard work of midwives and nurses in the NT across a range of categories, and 27 midwives have been nominated this year.

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