Chief Minister Adam Giles has tonight unveiled a package of measures to make the Northern Territory Public Service a more attractive place to work.

“The NT Public Sector is the Territory’s largest employer with 20 000 people working across 30 agencies. I’m proud to announce a raft of changes that will modernise our Public Service, promote training and staff development, as well as give staff more flexibility in their working lives,” Mr Giles said.

“The changes include the ability for staff to accrue leave to use over a new Christmas shutdown period which will start next year from 25 December to 1 January. This will bring the Territory into line with other jurisdictions across the country.

“There is provision for more flexible work hours with staff able to negotiate to start and finish early or start and finish late depending on their circumstances. We’re also simplifying the recruitment process to make it easier to apply for government jobs.

“We are keen to build our skill base within the NT Public Service and will offer new training guarantees for public servants at A02-A05 levels to assist employees with their professional development.

“Engaging with Asia is a key priority for the Government as it focuses on the Development of Northern Australia and the package includes the ability for staff to have their HECS fees reimbursed if they study an Asian language.”

Mr Giles made the announcements at the Chief Minister’s Awards for Excellence in the Public Sector at the Darwin Convention Centre this evening.

“This prestigious event recognises exceptional talent and energy we have in the Northern Territory Public Sector and it was a pleasure to see more than 500 people turning out at this gala ceremony to celebrate their work,” Mr Giles said.
For the first time this year, winners shared in a $100,000 prize-pool donated by the private sector for them to use on professional development.

“It’s great to see the business sector recognising the professional achievements of public servants in this way and I know their contribution was warmly welcomed by the prize winners. I thank all the companies involved for their support,” Minister for Public Employment John Elferink said.

“These awards are an important opportunity to recognise some of the innovative and important work being done across government to fast-track land release, diversify our economy, develop Northern Australia, create jobs in our regions, re-engage with Asia, protect our environment and enhance our great Territory lifestyle.

“I’d like to congratulate all of the finalists on the calibre of their entries and their commitment to their work.”

The winners are:

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Developing the North**
- Soil and land information across the Territory – Department of Land Resource Management

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Building Regional and/or Remote Economies**
- Tiwi Island Economic Development – A joint project of the Department of the Chief Minister, Land Development Corporation, Department of Transport, Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, Department of Land Resource Management, Department of Attorney-General and Justice, Department of Housing, Department of Business and Tourism NT

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Enriching our Society**
- Volunteer Community Educators Program - NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Enhancing our Culture and Lifestyle**
- Field Guide app to NT fauna - Museum and Art Gallery of the NT

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Delivering a Balanced Environment**
- Development of NT offshore snapper fisheries - Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Delivering Quality Customer Services – Joint winners**
- Changing Gears at MVR – Department of Transport
- Mainframe Applications Development Service – Department of Corporate and Information Services

**The Chief Minister’s Award for Strengthening Government and Public Administration**
- Remote School Attendance Strategy – Department of Education
The Chief Minister’s Award for Excellence in Partnering

- Growing Green Kids NT – Department of Education

2014 Chief Minister’s Public Sector Medal recipients

- Julie Nicholson, Department of the Chief Minister
- Eucharia Tipungwuti, Department of Education
- Carmelita Sceney (posthumously), Department of Education
- Graeme Kevern, Department of Business
- Sharon Hayes, Department of Correctional Services
- Glenda Thornton, Department of Transport
- Kathy Currie, Department of Health
- Stuart Dwyer, Department of Education
- Dr Samuel Goodwin, Department of Health

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