John Elferink
Minister for Health

2015 Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards

8 May 2015

A dedicated health professional who has given his all to the cardiac care of patients has been named the 2015 Northern Territory Nurse of the Year.

Jeff Tinsley is currently the Clinical Nurse manager of the Coronary Care Unit and Chronic Disease Coordination Unit at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Minister for Health John Elferink said Jeff’s dedication has deserved the recognition.

“Jeff is a leader and a wonderful carer of patients with a strong sense of cultural awareness – he is a great example to the profession and to the community of a caring, intelligent and dedicated nurse,” Mr Elferink said. “I not only congratulate him on his achievements but thank him for his great work.”

There were 11 category winners in the Northern Territory Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards at a gala ceremony held in Darwin.

There were nearly 300 nominations for 118 nurses and midwives for this year’s awards. More than 400 nurses, midwives and health professionals joined celebrations at the Darwin Convention Centre.

The Northern Territory Government employs more than 2500 nurses and midwives. The awards are a significant acknowledgment of their work.

Minister Elferink opened the gala dinner celebration by acknowledging the contribution nurses and midwives make to people’s lives and the quality of the health care system in the Northern Territory

“These professionals work tirelessly around the clock to provide high quality care to the sick and injured, in some of the most remote and challenging conditions in the country,” Mr Elferink said.

“They have a ‘can do’ attitude, which makes a great difference when faced with challenges like Tropical Cyclones Lam and Nathan recently. Nurses and midwives on both of these occasions were, as always, on standby ready to assist when required and provide tremendous assistance.

“Nursing, midwifery and health professionals enjoy one of the most diverse and exciting career pathways imaginable.”

Mr Elferink also acknowledged the professional expertise of nurses and midwives.
“Eighty per cent of nursing and midwifery work in the Northern Territory involves caring for Indigenous people who can present with some of the most complex health problems seen in the western world,” he said.

“Nurses and midwives are often making decisions that critically impact on people’s lives by consulting experts that can be thousands of kilometres away.

“Northern Territory nurses, midwives and health professionals lead the way in Australia in the areas of remote health service delivery, Indigenous and primary health care. Other states and territories look to the innovative and imaginative practice in the Northern Territory to inform them of best evidence based service delivery.”

The annual Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards recognise the outstanding contribution all nurses and midwives play in the delivery of health care across the Northern Territory.

“I congratulate this year’s nominees, finalists and award recipients for their overall commitment to the Territory’s health and wellbeing as well as for excelling this year against a quality field of award nominees,” Mr Elferink said.

ATTACHED – Biographies of awardees

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[2015 NMEA biographies](#)