Territory Families Minister reveals five National Youth Week 2017 Ambassadors

11 November 2016

Territory Families Minister Dale Wakefield has revealed the Territory’s newest Youth Ambassadors for National Youth Week 2017.

Three of five Ambassadors are from regional areas - Gove, Tennant Creek, and Alice Springs. The new Youth Week Ambassadors are:

- Mark Munnich, 24, for the Darwin, Palmerston and Darwin Rural Region
- Jessie Spargo, 23, for the Darwin, Palmerston and Darwin Rural Region
- Nooria Muradi, 18, for the Central Australia Region (Alice Springs)
- Natasha May, 19, for the Barkly Region (Tennant Creek)
- Leicolhn McKellar, 25 for the East/West Arnhem Region (Gove)

[See bios below. Images attached]

National Youth Week is a national annual event celebrating young people aged 12 to 25. It will run from March 31 to April 9 in 2017. The 10-day celebration provides young Australians with the opportunity to share ideas, raise concerns and act on issues important to them.

Territory Families – through the Office of Youth Affairs – appoints Youth Ambassadors each year to provide a youth perspective into the planning and promotion of National Youth Week.

Minister Wakefield congratulated the new ambassadors on their appointments.

“National Youth Week recognises and celebrates the positive contributions young people make to their community and it’s important the voices of young people from across the Territory are heard,” the Minister said.

“As Youth Week Ambassadors, you are leaders in our community and act as agents of change by sharing ideas and raising important issues for young Territorians.”

Youth Week 2016 saw close to 5,000 young people attend more than 70 events and activities across the Territory. The 2017 calendar of events will be released in March 2017.

NOTES

Media contact - Territory Families (08) 8999 2940 and media.dcf@nt.gov.au

- The 2017 National Youth Week Ambassadors are available for media in their respective regions.

Youth Week 2017 NT Ambassador Bios

**Mark Munnich**, 24, from the Darwin, Palmerston and Darwin Rural Region. Mark, an Indigenous young person, can relate to a broad range of young people and is an exceptional role model with strong networks in the youth community. He has had lots of experience with youth week events and other youth leadership initiatives, including Youth Parliament, YamSafe Indigenous Headspace and the Bilata Indigenous Legal Pathways Program.

**Jessie Spargo**, 23, from the Darwin, Palmerston, Darwin Rural Region. Jessie works part-time with the Menzies School of Health Research. She’s studying a Masters of Disaster and Emergency Management at Charles Darwin University. Jessie is passionate about empowering young people to make a difference in the community and believes National Youth Week is a perfect opportunity for young people to do this.

**Nooria Muradi**, 18, from the Central Australian Region. Nooria was born in Afghanistan and has lived in the Northern Territory for 11 years. She’s completing Year 12 at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart College in Sadadeen, Alice Springs. Nooria was a 2015 member of the Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians, the Vice-Captain at School and is a volunteer of the Alice Springs Youth Action Group. Nooria wants to raise awareness to the issues affecting youth people in Central Australia.

**Natasha May**, 19, from the Barkly Region. Natasha is a current member of the Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians. She’s studying a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) through Deakin University and works full time with Catholic Care Tennant Creek. Natasha is an Indigenous young lady with well-established networks throughout Tennant Creek. She has organised a number of events for young people and is passionate about ensuring young people in Tennant Creek are provided with opportunities to get involved in Youth Week.

**Leicolhn McKellar**, 25, and from the East/West Arnhem Region. Leicolhn is a current member of the Chief Minister’s Round Table of Young Territorians. She’s studying a Bachelor of Social Science/Certificate II Community Health Research through the University of Southern Queensland and Charles Darwin University. Leicolhn works full time with Anglicare NT and is well connected to the young people and community groups in Gove.

- Jessie Spargo
- Leicolhn McKellar
- Mark Munnich
- Natasha May
- Nooria Muradi