There's been an overwhelming response to the first NT Nursing and Midwifery Awards with 57 nominations across five categories of clinical practice - Community, Acute Care, Mental Health, Remote and Midwifery.

Minister for Health Dr Peter Toyne has announced the finalists at the launch of the National Conference of Royal College of Nursing Australia in Alice Springs.(see attachment for nurses in your area).

Dr Toyne launched the awards on International Nurses Day May 12 to recognise their professional commitment and reward excellence.

“It's been an incredible response and reflects the high regard nurses are held in the Northern Territory ,” Dr Toyne said.

“The Deputy Administrator of the NT, Ms Pat Miller, has kindly agreed to chair a panel of health professionals to look at these nominations.”

“I look forward to announcing the winner in each of the categories as well as the Territory Nurse or Midwife of the Year at the awards ceremony in August.”

“The Territory provides a diverse range of clinical practice including; acute, mental health, community and remote nursing and midwifery;

In this year's budget, an additional 71 nursing positions were created

- 25 critical care positions for ASH;
- 27 critical care positions for RDH;
- 13 hospice nurse positions for RDH; and
- 6 additional remote area nurse positions to commence the elimination of single-nurse-posts through out the Territory.
- 4 additional midwives to support the Royal Darwin birthing services will be recruited in 2005/06.

The Nurses EBA, agreed in January this year ensures that wages are competitive with other jurisdictions.

The EBA also enabled the establishment of an NT Nurses Taskforce – employing three senior staff, including 2 nurses to undertake reviews into a number of outstanding issues.

The Government has supported that one of these positions is an ANF position, funded through a grant to the ANF.

The Martin Government also supports nurses and midwives through $236,000 in scholarships for undergraduate and postgraduate studies.
Nurse Award Recipients