

14 June 2019

## **SINGING THE PRAISES OF NT VOLUNTEERS**

Northern Territorians are encouraged to sing the praises of a volunteer they believe deserves to be recognised in the annual Northern Territory Volunteer of the Year Awards.

Nominations for the Awards open today and it's not only volunteers that are recognised, it's their volunteer managers and volunteer involving organisations.

There are seven categories, which are split for both Top End and Central Australia, including the Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Year Award and NT Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation.

The categories this year have everyone covered including youth, emergency services, volunteer organisations, individual volunteers and volunteer managers.

The annual Awards have been going since 2014 and recognise the outstanding contribution of people working in the volunteering sector. It rewards the passionate people, who as volunteers, give their time and skills with no monetary gain.

Each year, around 70,000 Northern Territorians volunteer, together contributing around 3.8 million volunteer hours, estimated to be worth more than \$3 billion.

CEO Evelyn O'Loughlin said that there are so many amazing volunteers out there, helping to strengthen communities and make a difference in the lives of others.

"So much so, that last year, a tradition was broken when two winners were announced in the top ranked Award, the NT Volunteer of the Year.

"After lengthy deliberations, the judging panel found it impossible to select just one, so both Frank Dunstan, St John Ambulance (NT) and Neil Westbury from MJD (Machado-Joseph Disease) Foundation were awarded the overall winners.

"The level of commitment to volunteering is outstanding and these Awards are just one way we can recognise the work of so many dedicated volunteers," Ms O'Loughlin said.

The nomination process is easy and there is more information available on our website <https://www.volunteeringsa-nt.org.au/training-and-events/events/nt-volunteer-of-the-year-awards>

Nominations close 25 August 2019 with the exciting announcement of the winners in Alice Springs on 6 November and Darwin on 7 November.

### **Media enquiries and interviews**

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## **AWARD CATEGORIES**

### **Central Australia Awards**

- Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Award
- Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
- Yeperenye Shopping Centre Emergency Service Volunteer Award
- Jacana Energy Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year
- NT Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation
- INPEX Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award
- Alice Springs Town Council Excellence in Volunteer Management Award
- NT Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation

### **Top End Awards**

- Chief Minister's Volunteer of the Award
- Chief Minister's Youth Volunteer of the Year Award
- Emergency Service Volunteer Award
- Jacana Energy Community Volunteer Organisation of the Year
- NT Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation
- INPEX Lifetime Contribution to Volunteering Award
- Excellence in Volunteer Management Award
- NT Volunteer Certificate of Appreciation

*Proudly sponsored by Northern Territory Government and supported by Jacana Energy, INPEX, Yeperenye Shopping Centre and Alice Springs Town Council*