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| **Northern Territory Aboriginal Health Worker and Practitioner Excellence Awards** |

Nomination Information

The Department of Health in partnership with the Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise, United Voice, and the Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory (AMSANT) encourage you to nominate an outstanding [[1]](#footnote-1)Aboriginal Health Worker and/or Aboriginal Health Practitioner in the Northern Territory Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker and Practitioner Excellence Awards (the awards).

# Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners are the essential conduit between traditional and western health services, working towards closing the health gap by delivering culturally safe, holistic and client focused care in often challenging circumstances and locations.

# The awards are an opportunity to showcase outstanding members of these professional groups, recognising and acknowledging the significant contribution they make to their families, communities and to the healthcare system in the Northern Territory.

# Nomination Process

## Nomination Criteria

Nominations are encouraged who meet the following criteria:

* displays good role modelling, in their community;
* provide positive direction and guidance
* demonstrates the importance of their role to others.
* provides ongoing quality services to their clients and community
* shows compassion, empathy and kindness towards clients and other members of the team.

## Conditions of nomination

Nominations may be made by members of the general public, community, peers, work colleagues, managers or employers. No self-nominations or nominations from an immediate family member will be accepted.

The awards are open to Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners who are currently employed in any Northern Territory health organisation.  
  
Aboriginal Health Practitioners must have current registration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia. They must have no conditions, undertakings, limitations or notations on their registration, and/or no formal complaints lodged in their workplace regarding inappropriate behaviour.

Previous finalists of these awards are ineligible for nomination in any category for two years after receiving an award, unless being nominated for the Honour Roll.

When submitting your nomination, you will be required to confirm that the nominee has agreed to accept the nomination. If your nomination does not include this information, the nomination will not be considered further.

# Award Categories

## New Categories:

* The **Honour Roll** is a prestigious award, recognising and celebrating an individual whose commitment and service to the community goes beyond their paid employment and career achievements, and whose role modelling behaviour inspires others.

Nominations can be submitted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners currently or **previously employed** in the Northern Territory.

Refer to the Honour Roll nomination form for eligibility and selection criteria.

* The **Student Award** is for any full time Aboriginal student residing in the Northern Territory undertaking a qualification from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care training package. This award provides recognition of the student’s effort, achievement and academic progress through hard work, commitment and high quality of work.

Refer to the Student Award nomination form for eligibility and selection criteria.

In addition to public nominations in these categories, NT Health will seek nominations through relevant stakeholders, non-government organisations and government agencies as applicable.

## Aboriginal Health Worker Award Categories:

* The **Remote Aboriginal Health Worker Award** acknowledges and recognises the Aboriginal Health Worker who are not registered practitioners.   
    
  They live and work in the remote community, often isolated and with limited resources. Their role varies, they are multi-skilled and as a member of the local health team are able to respond in times of need. They act as patient advocates and cultural brokers, often teaching new health staff about local Aboriginal protocols, ensuring culturally safe healthcare is provided.
* The **Urban Aboriginal Health Worker Award**, specifically acknowledges Aboriginal Health Workers working in an urban environment who face similar yet different challenges to their remote counterparts.

They service a much larger and more diverse client group which presents greater cultural diversity and communication challenges; thus, making it extremely difficult to communicate with, ensuring informed consent is obtained; the ability to find their clients is more difficult and getting them to stay. Their core business is in prevention, early detection and early intervention, engaging individuals, families and communities. As patient advocates, health navigators and health coaches, they usually ensure the patient are continually informed and engaged with their health care plans; and as cultural brokers they provide culturally safe health care and mentoring to clients and other health professionals.

## Aboriginal Health Practitioners Award Categories:

* The **Remote Aboriginal Health Practitioner Award** acknowledges and recognises Aboriginal Health Practitioners who live and breathe the job in the bush; often isolated and with limited resources, they need to be multi-skilled and available at all times for the unexpected. They are completely hands-on, delivering and managing Indigenous primary health care programmes, caring for country, family and community, and, as agents of change continually working towards promoting good health, wellbeing and self-management of healthcare.
* The **Urban Aboriginal Health Practitioner Award** specifically acknowledges Aboriginal Health Practitioners working within an urban environment who face similar yet different challenges to their remote counterparts. The urban Aboriginal Health Practitioner has access to more support services however they service a much larger and more diverse client group which presents greater cultural diversity and communication challenges; thus, making it extremely difficult to communicate with, ensuring ongoing informed consent is obtained and patient advocacy is provided.
* The **Specialist Aboriginal Health Practitioner Award** recognises the unique contributions made by Aboriginal Health Practitioners in a variety of specialised areas. These areas include clinical, research, education, policy, leadership and management, and community development. Demonstrating exemplary leadership qualities in specialised fields, their work adds value to a range of other health professionals, particularly where they provide care, knowledge and skills in their specialised field.
* The **New Practitioner Award** is aimed at Aboriginal Health Practitioners who have shown outstanding achievements in the first three years of qualifying as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner. They can be in any location, any field and face many challenges as a novice practitioner. The New practitioner demonstrates they are able to apply their new knowledge and skills as safe practitioners, while working in their scope of practice, level of competence and asking for help when they need too.

# Submission

In order to maximise the impact of your nomination, please provide substantiative statements where possible, making it clear to the selection panel why the nominee is superior and should receive the award.

Further information and nomination forms can be found on the NTG website, <https://health.nt.gov.au/professionals/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health>

**Nominations close Sunday 21 July 2019.**

## Examples of strong nomination statements:

*“He/She has shown excellence in all areas of patient care and a high quality practice. A commitment to patient-centred care is outstanding - leading outstation health, Men's/Women’s health, rheumatic heart disease, mental health programs. This is evident through …..*

*“As an Aboriginal Health Worker she/he has developed community health promotion sessions that uses the local language and understanding to the community. She/he plays a major role in connecting clients to the clinic in a cultural safe way as well as supporting them individually through the western health system. She/he ensure the best possible outcomes for the patients and is an invaluable member of our team. This is evident through …..*

*“As an Aboriginal Health Practitioner he/she has demonstrated high level of clinical skills. He/she excels in her community engagement, cultural respect, safety and education rolls, very time management conscious and her clinical assessment and care of acutely unwell patients is at a high standard.” This is evident through …..*

### Privacy Statement

The Northern Territory Government only uses information collected for the purpose for which it was supplied and such information will not be disclosed or used for any other purpose without the express consent of the person to whom the information relates, unless required by law.

# Questions

If you required further advice please refer to the NTG website or contact Aboriginal Workforce Development on (08) 8999 2999 or by email [ATSIHPexcellenceawards.doh@nt.gov.au](mailto:ATSIHPexcellenceawards.doh@nt.gov.au).

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)