



Media Release

Robyn Lambley  
Minister for Health

### **Award winning work to tackle chronic disease in the NT**

4 September 2014

The Minister for Health Robyn Lambley has congratulated the winners of the 2014 Chronic Disease Network Recognition Awards in Alice Springs today.

“The awards are part of the two-day joint conference of Chronic Diseases Network and the Australian Health Promotion Association that started today in Alice Springs that is focusing on equitable access to health services,” Mrs Lambley said.

“Chronic conditions such as mental health problems, diabetes and cardiovascular disease are some of the leading causes of avoidable hospital admissions in the Northern Territory.

“The rate of avoidable hospital admissions for Indigenous Territorians is much higher than the national average due largely to chronic disease.

“This is why we must encourage, recognise and celebrate the innovation, leadership and achievements made by those working in this field across the Territory.

“Western Desert Nganampa Walytja Palyantjaku Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation was given the

#### **Chronic Disease Health Promotion/Program Delivery Award.**

“The Corporation has developed an innovative approach to the treatment of end stage renal failure for Aboriginal people living in remote areas of Central Australia, by providing the ‘Purple Truck’ mobile dialysis treatment, as well as the ‘Purple House’ support centre.

“David Cox, who is an Aboriginal Male Health Coordinator with the Top End Health Network, was given the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Leadership Award** for his tireless work to promote men’s health in remote communities.

“Feedback from his colleagues and community members consistently indicate that he has been the driving force in the increased numbers of men participating in health programs and screening.

“Doctor Gary Sinclair was given the **Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Chronic Diseases Award** for his work in improving the system by which practitioners gather and report data from across health services.

“This work has meant that data relating to chronic conditions is now provided in a timely and accessible manner for practitioners, and it has been instrumental in lifting the performance of Primary Health Care across the Territory.

“The Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women’s Council (NPYWC) was given the **Conference Theme Award** for its work in addressing equitable access to health care.

“The NPYWC’s Ngangkari program has been working for many years to build collaborative relationships between senior traditional Aboriginal healers and health professionals.

“In 2013 the NPYWC Ngangkari team commenced work on ““Utira Kulintjaku” – which means ‘to understand clearly’.

“This project is a language project focussing on mutual understanding between health professionals and Anangu.

“Health professionals have helped to translate their medical ‘jargon’ into Ngaanyatjarra, Pitjantjatjara and Yankunytjatjara languages, which is leading to better ways for the community to work together on health.”

**Media Contact:** Phoebe Stewart    0438885774    (08) 8928 6649