

25 February 2002 NT Volunteer of the Year Awards launched

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Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Syd Stirling today helped launch new awards recognising outstanding Territory volunteers.

Mr Stirling said the awards were being run by Volunteering Northern Territory in conjunction with TIO and the ABC to promote and recognise volunteering in the community.

The awards will run from March to November, with a particular volunteering sector in the spotlight each month.

"People can nominate a volunteer they know who has shown creativity, enthusiasm, commitment and results in their volunteering activities," Mr Stirling said.

"In the first month, Volunteering NT will be recognising volunteers involved in emergency, safety and crime prevention services.

"These men and women play an invaluable role in the community, working with police to prevent crime, or providing emergency and safety services in their communities including education and training programs and safety initiatives.

"People who volunteer their time don't do it because they *have* to, they do it because they *want* to.

"They don't look for recognition or glory, but their willingness to sacrifice their time and energy to make our community a better place deserves to be celebrated and applauded."

The awards will recognise volunteers throughout the year in the following categories:

- March Emergency, Safety and Crime Prevention Services
- April Environment, Conservation and Heritage
- May Health, Welfare and Community Services
- June Children, Youth and Education
- July Sport and Recreation
- August Arts and Community (including multicultural and indigenous organisations)
- September Service Clubs and Defence
- October 'Spirit of the Community' Business Award
- November Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award

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