

Media Release - 11 December 2019

Announcing the winners of the 2019 NT Human Rights Awards

The NT Human Rights Awards ceremony, “the Fitzgeralds” was held last night at the Supreme Court in Darwin.

In her opening speech Jane Alia a young refugee migrant advocate spoke of the challenges of young people’s voice being heard and the barriers she and her peers have faced. Jane also spoke of solutions, in particular the importance of accessing educational opportunities, and the things that we can all contribute to give young refugees the best chance of success in the community

The steering committee received nominations from across the NT from Alice Springs to Darwin, Tiwi Island to Yirrkala.,

Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sally Sievers said, “The Awards demonstrate the human rights work being done across the Northern Territory community on a day to day basis. It is wonderful to see so many people celebrate and recognise 10 December, United Nations Day for Human Rights.”

The Fitzgerald Youth Award

Individual winner – Jubilee Weo, a young women working with young Yolngu people in Yirrkala to hold youth events on Friday nights, with food and activities. She co-ordinates and resources the initiative herself with the support of her family.

Organisation winner – Alice Springs Youth Accommodation & Support Service Inc providing youth informed assistance to young people and children who are homeless or at risk in Alice Spring’s for 30 years.

The Fitzgerald Justice Award

Individual winner – Maxine Carlton a senior Aboriginal women, has held numerous leadership roles in Alice Springs and worked as Senior Client Services Officer for NAAJA and CAALAS for 16 years. Maxine is unrelenting in her pursuit of justice for Aboriginal people.

Organisation winner – Top End Women’s Legal Service, a community legal provider for women since 1996, developing accessible and innovative resources for women to remove barriers to justice.

Fitzgerald Social Change Award

Social Change Individual –Casey Bishop, long serving Safety and Wellbeing Program Manager at Kalano Community Association. Highly regarded by his teams for his leadership, clear communication and well managed programs for Aboriginal communities they serve.

Social Change Organisation - VarietyNT Starfish Swim group – providing one on one tailored swimming lesson for children with a disability since 2007. Also offering social networks and advocacy to the families of the children.

The Fitzgerald Diversity Award

Individual – Colleen Rosas – who pioneered the Aboriginal Languages interpreting sector in Australia, worked with Aboriginal Interpreter Service in NT from 1997 to 2018.

Organisation – City of Palmerston – for programs that celebrate culture in way that values diversity, including the successful youth festival, International Women’s Day events. Harmony and Migrant days as well as community dinners and Drag Queen Storytime.

For more information or to arrange an interview contact: Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sally Sievers (08) 8999 1444

The Fitzgeralds are named after former NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Tony Fitzgerald.

Winners Contacts:

Jubilee Weo – 0460 779 635
ASYSSA - CEO – Tania Morgan – 0408 957 727

Colleen Rosas –0409893234 (please email any questions in advance)
City of Palmerston – Mayor – Athina Pascoe-Bell - 0421558477

Maxine Carlton – 0428 099 298
TEWLS – Vanessa Lathlain, TEWLS Managing Solicitor, Mobile 0474 426 565

Casey Bishop - 0488 261 267
VarietyNT Starfish Swim Group - Donna Rousham 0437 112 633

