

## Media Release

### 2015 NT Human Rights Awards – The Fitzgeralds

The Award ceremony for “the Fitzgeralds”, the 2015 NT Human Rights Awards, was held tonight at the Supreme Court in Darwin.

An inspiring speech by Frank Brennan SJ AO set the scene for the importance of raising awareness and celebrating United Nations Day for Human Rights.

Ms Sievers Anti-Discrimination Commissioner on behalf of the Awards Steering Committee said “It was an exceptional year with 51 different nominations for the 4 Awards, from individuals and organisation from across the Northern Territory who work on a day to day basis to advance and uphold Human Rights in the Northern Territory”

Thirteen people/organisation were recognised 6 highly commended and 7 winners over the four categories were announced and presented tonight.

The Fitzgerald Youth Award – Joint winners Shahleena Musk & Stronger Sisters – Tenant Creek High School,

Shahleena for her work at NAAJA with innovative and holistic approaches to working with Aboriginal Youth involved in the criminal justice system.

Stronger Sisters – program working with young women at Tennant Creek High school. Leadership and life skills, with philosophy of earn and learn.

Highly commended – Project 21

The Fitzgerald Justice Award – Joint winners Police Caution – Aboriginal Interpreter Service & Larrakia Nation Night Patrol

Aboriginal Interpreter Service for their 4 year-long project to interpret the police caution into 18 Aboriginal languages for use on police iPad.

Larrakia Nation Night Patrol – for work protecting the rights of aboriginal people greater Darwin area, 7 nights a week, 52 weeks year. Expanded recently include mini bus assist children attend wide range activities in the community.

Highly commended – Daryl Murdock

Fitzgerald Social Change Award – DASSAN

The Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network, for individual and systemic advocacy for asylum seekers in detention and in the community, and role in change attitudes wider community, talk’s films and events etc.

2 Highly Commended

CSSU Wadeye Safe House & Tangentyere Women's Committee –  
Family Safety Group.

The Fitzgerald Diversity Award – Joint Winners – Football Without Borders &  
Somerville Community Services

Football Without Borders- offers three days of football activities with the aim of  
supporting asylum seekers and refugees as they integrate into the Darwin  
community.

Somerville Community Services Inc. – Somerville Diversity Work Group – ensures  
through range of workplace events & initiatives the inclusion and utilisation of the  
skills of 79% culturally diverse work force.

Joint Highly Commended Jared Sharp & NT Legal Aid Commission - CALD Project

The awards have been named in honour of former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner  
Tony Fitzgerald.

Sally Sievers said, “It was a very successful night and we look forward to a bigger  
and better Awards next year to celebrate the human rights work of those in the  
Northern Territory community, on 10 December, United Nations Day for Human  
Rights.”

**Contact: Sally Sievers (08) 8999 1444**