

## Media Release

### Inaugural NT Human Rights Awards – The Fitzgeralds

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

An emotional and inspiring speech by Carine Kapiamba set the scene for the importance of raising awareness and celebrating United Nations Day for Human Rights Day. As Ms Kapiamba said, "Human Rights are the baseline and also an aspiration."

Commendations and winners in each of the four categories were announced and presented.

The Fitzgerald Youth Award – Stewart Willey, for his work with disadvantaged youth in Tennant Creek.

The Fitzgerald Justice Award – NAAJA , for 40 years work representing the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Northern Australia.

Also commended was the Kunga Project Stopping Violence Project, an innovative Alice Springs project working with women prisoners.

Fitzgerald Social Change Award – The NT Working Women’s Centre, who have provided advice and support to women about work related issues in the Territory for last 20 years.

Commendations in this category were made to the Alice Springs Integrated Response to Family and Domestic Violence Reference Group, the Darwin Asylum Seeker Support and Advocacy Network, and italk library, a small business which uses innovative technology to present information in an accessible way.

The Fitzgerald Diversity Award – Jeswynn Yogaratnam, CDU lecturer in human rights, for his diverse involvement in NT community, asylum seeker, indigenous and LGBTI human rights.

Commendations were made to My Sisters Kitchen, a project bringing together newly arrived women and children to encourage social connection & support, and David Nicholls, a prominent mental health advocate.

Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Sally Sievers, who played a major role in organising the awards, which have been named in honour of former Anti-Discrimination Commissioner Tony Fitzgerald, 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.”

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