

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
HON ALANNA CLOHESY MLC
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE DEPUTY PREMIER;
HEALTH; MENTAL HEALTH
STRONG SPIRIT STRONG MIND AWARDS AND THE COMMUNITY IN ACTION AND
ADVOCACY AWARDS
22 August 2019**

Madam President

I am pleased to rise today to provide some important recognition for the tireless workers in our alcohol and other drug sector.

Last week, more than 190 people attended the Strong Spirit Strong Mind Awards and the Community in Action and Advocacy Awards, which were jointly held as part of the two-day Western Australian Aboriginal Alcohol and other Drug Workers Forum and Local Drug Action Groups State Conference. This event was proudly hosted by Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies and Local Drug Action Group.

Just quickly, before I go on, I wanted to mention that I attended the event, in my capacity as Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Mental Health, and can I say, it was outstanding to see so many people there committed to developing a better future for all Western Australians.

The Strong Spirit Strong Mind Awards acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by organisations and individuals in the field of Aboriginal alcohol and other drug work in Western Australia.

The words Strong Spirit Strong Mind promote the value of Aboriginal culture, identity and spiritual connections as strengths in managing alcohol and other drug use.

I congratulate Averil Scott from Women's Health and Family Services who was named as Aboriginal Alcohol and Other Drug Worker of the Year for her work strengthening cultural and family ties for Aboriginal people and services to better meet the needs of the community.

Averil has also championed her organisation's development and implementation of its Reconciliation Action Plan, devoting time and energy to ensuring organisational targets are met and cultural competency continues to grow.

Additionally, I would like to congratulate Rose Power from the Northam Local Drug Action Group who was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Award, as part of the Community in Action and Advocacy Awards, for her work in the development and implementation of numerous projects across her community.

The Community in Action and Advocacy Awards acknowledge, encourage and celebrate the achievements of the incredible Local Drug Action Group members and organisations that do exceptional work to prevent and reduce the harm and impact of alcohol and other drugs.

Across the State, hundreds of Local Drug Action Group volunteers are taking action through grassroots practices to reduce harms that benefit the entire community.

I hope everyone in the chamber will join me in congratulating Averil and Rose, and all the other winners and finalists.

The work to reduce alcohol and other drug related harms in our communities continues, but we have some exceptional people on the ground, working every day, which is why I also want to make mention of all the volunteers in this sector.

The awards were also used as an opportunity to acknowledge a number of dedicated people who have dedicated 10, 15 and 20 years of service with Local Drug Action Group – an outstanding achievement of community engagement.

I am pleased to table a list of the award winners and those recognised for their years of voluntary service.

Thank you.

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