

**NO MORE ...**



2009 Northern Territory  
Strong Families Award

# THE STORY



CatholicCare NT



CatholicCare NT

# NT Strong Families Award - Who's Who

## Master of Ceremonies - Charlie King

You're going to meet some terrific Territorians ... some wonderful people who have worked very hard to make things happen in their communities around the NT, often going without recognition.

### In the 2009 NT Strong Families Award Story you will find ...

- Who's Who – the people who were there
- The nominees – information about all nominees for the NT Strong Families Award
- The action – photos showing what happened on the night
- From the heart – inspiring words from speakers and guests
- Into the spotlight – Award nominees and the 2009 Award Winner
- Men and women working together
- Comments from FaHCSIA and CatholicCare NT
- The NT Strong Men's Council
- Where to next for the NO MORE ... Strong Families campaign.



## Distinguished Guests

Brian Stacey, State Manager, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)

Bishop of the Northern Territory, Eugene Hurley

Former NT Government Minister Jack Ah Kit

Director CatholicCare NT, Jayne Lloyd

VFL Australian Football legend Peter 'Crackers' Keenan

Dual Australian Representative (Touch Football, World Rugby Sevens) Bo de la Cruz

Dr David Ashbridge, CEO NT Department of Health and Families

Jenny Scott, Executive Director, NT Families and Children

## Distinguished People

Many people from all walks of life across the Territory took the time to attend the inaugural NT Strong Families Award. As far as I'm concerned you're all distinguished because you're here and you care. (Former NT Government Minister, Jack Ah Kit)



**Cover Photo:** Peter Lindsay and Silena Ashley (Wugularr), winners of the 2009 NT Strong Families Award, with Charlie King (left), Chair of the NT Strong Men's Council

# NT Strong Families Award - Who's Who

## Award Presenters

- Koolpinyah Richard Barnes** (Chairman, Larrakia Development Corporation)  
**Julie Woerner** (Australian international cricketer)  
**Steve Blake** (20 time winner, Darwin City to Surf Run)  
**Dan Pananpa** (Life Member, NT Rugby Union)  
**Peter 'Crackers' Keenan** (228-game VFL Premiership and All Australian footballer)  
**Steve Larkin** (Pro Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University)  
**Stuart Totham** (Chief Executive, NT Thunder Australian Rules)  
**Peter Reeves** (Australian Rugby League Development Officer – Northern Territory)  
**Shellie Morris** (Australian Indigenous singer and songwriter)  
**Helen Smith** (President, Netball NT)  
**Brian Stacey**, State Manager, Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA)  
**Jamie Chadwick** (Marketing and Communications Manager, Darwin Turf Club)  
**David Curtis** (Executive Member NT Strong Men's Council, Alderman Tennant Creek Town Council)



*They have come from all over the Northern Territory. Some have travelled here by bus, some have travelled here by plane, and some even jumped on the Ghan at the last minute – because that's the only way that they could get here. Some arrived the day before yesterday, some arrived yesterday and some arrived a short time ago. (Charlie King, Master of Ceremonies)*

## NT Strong Men's Council

### Chair

Charlie King                      Darwin

### Executive

Richard Hayes                      Alice Springs  
 Freddy Scrubby                      Barunga  
 Eddie Taylor                      Jingili  
 David Curtis                      Tennant Creek  
 Barry Puruntatameri                      Tiwi

### Members

Eric Sultan                      Alice Springs  
 Noel Hayes                      Ali Curung  
 Barry Robinson                      Barunga  
 Peter Lindsay                      Beswick  
 Sam Ashley                      Beswick  
 Richard Kennedy                      Beswick

Jamie Ahfat  
 Katherine  
 Katherine  
 Lake Nash  
 Maningrida  
 Milikapiti  
 Roper River  
 Southern Arrernte  
 Santa Teresa  
 Tennant Creek  
 Ti Tree  
 Tiwi  
 Tiwi  
 Tiwi  
 Wadeye  
 Wadeye  
 Wadeye  
 Yuendumu  
 Yuelamu



# From our Hearts ...

## About the NO MORE ... NT Strong Families Awards

The Awards are part of a movement spreading among Indigenous men and women in communities across the Territory.

The movement began when Indigenous men spoke about the need for their voice to be heard in wider discussions about the wellbeing of families, children and communities. These men were sick of the negative images and stereotypes. They knew that good people in many places, men and women alike, were caring for their own families and taking steps to help others.

Step by step, Indigenous men talked in meetings and informally. They developed the idea for the NO MORE ... campaign to end domestic violence. They spread the message through their football teams, linking arms in a symbolic message to their own communities and the wider world. They formed an organisation, the NT Strong Men's Council, to carry the message forward and to engage with governments, business and the community.

Whether in commerce, sport or the arts, awards for excellence recognise high achievers – people who are willing to stand up and set the standard for others.

The NT Strong Families Award recognises outstanding men and women, people who are doing a great job – often behind the scenes – to make families stronger and women and children safer.

*We the Larrakia have always been a welcoming people ... We are a proud people – proud of our heritage, proud of our land, proud of our culture, proud of our identities and, like you, we are proud to say that we are here to stay.*

*Tonight we are here to applaud your efforts and your courage to fight on and make a stand against violence when you tell others 'No more.' So let's all continue to stand together and make a better life for us all.*

**(Richard Fejo, Larrakia Nation, Welcome to Country)**



*It's long overdue that we pay our respects to those who really deserve it. They are the aunties who take in our kids when they are in trouble. They are the people on night patrols keeping everybody safe and things under wraps. They are the men who stand up and say no to family violence and to grog and bring people back to our way.*

**(Tom Calma, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner)**

*As I get older, I often reflect on my upbringing and my childhood growing up in Parap Camp here in Darwin. This camp was located in Stuart Park, not all that far from here as distance goes but a world away in time.*

*Violence was sometimes present, but it did not overwhelm life. We were not oppressed by a culture of fear and violence. Sadly, too many people in today's world are overwhelmed by a culture of fear and violence.*

*There is a happiness and a freedom that comes with being a man who has made this commitment to oppose family violence. **(Former NT Government Minister, Jack Ah Kit)***



# From our Hearts ...

*Family is the most important thing to me ... I have the utmost respect for the people who are doing this for our people and for their own families. All I can say is 'keep going'.*  
**(Dual Australian representative Bo de la Cruz)**



*I lost the respect of my team mates. I broke team rules. I was selfish – and I cost my team the chance to win a premiership.  
I'm not usually a humble person but coming here tonight I felt a bit embarrassed with so many people doing such good work.  
Football has changed now. It was a very violent, bloody sport. Now it's not. It's clean.*  
**(Peter 'Crackers' Keenan)**

*In our lives, we can make a mistake. But we can get up from that mistake and we can be stronger. We can be more determined to make a difference in our communities.*  
**(Singer song writer Shellie Morris)**



*The human family is where we live and come to know who we are. It's where we learn to be loved and to love others, where we learn to respect and be respected. It's a place where we are able to grow into who we are meant to be.* **(Bishop Eugene Hurley)**

# Into the Spotlight ...

*It's really good to be all together and I hope we can just stick to the job that we all do when we get back to the families.*

*(Willie Bookie, Award nominee, Alpururulam)*

*I'd like to say to all you men out there – I know you all have families – make sure that your families are safe and say 'No more'.*

*(Richard Kennedy, Award nominee, Wugularr)*

*I'm an Indigenous person from where I come from. I'm a Maori and very proud of it. We have the same problems and it's great to come to a place like this and to be asked to present such an award.*

*(Dan Pananpa, Presenter, NT Rugby Union)*



## **Willie Bookie (Alpururulam)**

As a night patroller, Willie has shown great courage and perseverance facing up to drunks and personal abuse as he keeps working to look after families and young people.



## **Richard Kennedy (Wugularr)**

Richard is a man who has learned from his own experience and changed his life. He is speaking out to stop family violence and to support young people.



## **Riley Major (Canteen Creek)**

Riley travelled huge distances to attend the Awards. Alongside his wife and fellow night patroller Millie Mick, he has worked for many years to make his community peaceful.



## **Lionel Inkamana (Hermannsburg)**

Lionel is known for his inspiring efforts to revitalise the community football team, and for working with local men to attend meetings organised by the Men's Program.



## **Philip Alice (Ltentye Apurte)**

Philip is President of the Ltentye Apurte Football Club, the first in the NT to adopt a Code of Conduct on Family Violence. He is the main organiser of the local men's group.



## **Chris Wallace (Ltentye Apurte)**

Chris was nominated because of his work to get men involved in bush bonding sessions and hunting trips, learning literacy and numeracy skills, and other activities of the men's group.



## **Shane Bostock (Barunga)**

As President of the school council, Shane is a local role model who constantly promotes the importance of strong families and the right way for men to contribute.



*1. Presenter Koolpinyah Richard Barnes; 2. Willie Bookie; 3. Willie Bookie; 4. Presenter Julie Woerner; 5. Richard Kennedy; 6. Presenter Steve Blake with Riley Major; 7. John Darcy*

# Into the Spotlight ...

*It's not the most popular area to work in. It requires real commitment. It takes personal and professional cost and risk and sacrifice ... unfortunately and very sadly this work goes largely unnoticed, so it is with great pleasure that I am able to present this award tonight.*

**(Steve Larkin, Presenter, Pro Vice Chancellor, Charles Darwin University)**

*I would like to thank the organisers very much – the federal government, FaHCSIA ... for funding this special award. We had two days of meeting here in Darwin and, once again ... thank you very much.* **(Barry Puruntatameri, Award nominee, Nguiu)**

*I want to thank you for being here ... Things have been going on in Wadeye to make a difference. ... Thank you for bringing us up to Darwin and thank you for being here.* **(Lenny Dumoo, Award nominee, Wadeye)**

## **Selwyn Pascoe and John Darcy (Maningrida)**

Through their work as community night patrollers and their leadership among young men, Selwyn and John are setting an example for others to follow.

## **Horace Wala Wala and Sam Gumugun (Maningrida)**

Since 2008, Horace and Sam have delivered 21 life skills sessions to more than 60 young men, showing outstanding commitment to the safety and wellbeing of young people.

## **Barry Puruntatameri (Nguiu)**

As a respected Tiwi leader, family man and council member, Barry sets the example as a non-drinker and non-smoker who speaks out against all family violence.

## **Lenny Dumoo (Wadeye)**

By rejecting violence, Lenny changed his life. With the support of his family, he is standing up as a strong man and helping others to turn their lives around.

## **Lazarus Murray (Bulman)**

Lazarus is known as a strong culture person. In his previous work as a police aide and now as a night patrol supervisor, he has helped many families in trouble.

## **Peter Miller (Bulman)**

As a community elder and spokesperson, Peter and his wife work hard to reduce violence by helping families to solve problems through better communication.

## **Shaun Nugget (Bulman)**

Shaun is a young father and night patrol worker who is building his personal skills and knowledge to look after families in the community.

8. Selwyn Pascoe; 9. Presenter 'Crackers' Keenan with Horace Wala Wala;  
10. Horace Wala Wala; 11. Sam Gumugun; 12. Lenny Dumoo; 13. Presenter Stuart Totham with Lenny Dumoo; 14. Presenter Steve Larkin with Barry Puruntatameri



# Into the Spotlight ...

As a strong person, I hope, with all the men today – be strong and say ‘No’ to violence.  
(William Parmbuk, Award nominee, Wadeye)

Thank you very much for inviting us here. Thank you.  
(Angela Ninnal, Award nominee, Wadeye)

I think we need to do a lot more but I would also say ... that none of that will make much difference compared to the work of the people that are being presented with awards tonight.  
(Brian Stacey, State Manager, FaHCSIA)



## Lawrence Costa (Milikapiti)

Lawrence has helped the community to implement a process to solve family problems. When an incident occurs, the perpetrator, victim and families are brought together with support people to work through the problem and prevent re-occurrence.

## William Parmbuk (Wadeye)

With his wife Michelle, William dedicates his life to helping families look after each other. They regularly take groups out bush for culture and peace, and their home is a refuge for people in trouble.

## Angela Ninnal, Mavis Mulumbuk, Mary Elizabeth Dulla, Eileen Gumaduck, Mikaelas Tchiburur (Wadeye)

Having made a decision to change their own lives, these women have supported one another through Al-alon training and are now helping others to break out of destructive cycles and support their families.

## Joyce Taylor (Tennant Creek)

For many years, Joyce has tirelessly offered personal support and advocacy in her continuing work to make life better and safer for Indigenous families.

## Jonathan Conway (Amoonguna)

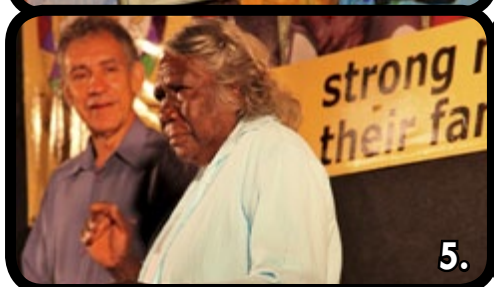
Jonathan is the mover and shaker behind the Central Arrernte football team. He has built strong team rules about personal conduct and grog, and has fostered a spirit of cooperation among players from diverse town camps and communities.

## Sammy Butcher (Papunya)

Better communication is the key to Sammy's approach. He constantly encourages good relationships between community members and the police in an effort to keep people safe.

## Barak Sambono (Naiyu)

Barak has a background in education and is currently working on the Strong Spirit Strong Body Naiyu Youth Program. He is highly respected as a strong man and role model.



1. Presenter Brian Stacey and William Parmbuk; 2. William Parmbuk; 3. Presenter Helen Smith with Lawrence Costa; 4. Presenter Shellie Morris with Angela Ninnal and Mavis Mulumbuk; 5. Mavis Mulumbuk; 6. Joyce Taylor; 7. Presenter Jamie Chadwick with Richard Tcherna

# Into the Spotlight ...

We had a lot of problems out at Yuendumu ... a lot of domestic violence towards women and our kids. But now, since we have our Mt Theo program that's run by young people, everything has just settled down and now we have no fighting, no domestic violence towards kids. We are still working hard on young men who are drinking in Alice Springs. So we're working on that. Thank you.  
(Georgina Wilson, Award nominee, Yuendumu)

Through our experience, some of us would like to see a change, a change for the better and for the future as well. Violence isn't the way to go. Culture is the way to go.  
(Peter Lindsay, Award nominee with Silena Ashley, Wugularr)

## Richard Tchernia (Wadeye)

Richard is known for living what he talks – looking after family rather than sitting around drinking and smoking. When outsiders come to the community, he is there to provide local knowledge, continuity and communication between cultures.

## Arthur Karui (Wadeye)

Arthur is a senior man who has changed his own life. He is now standing up as a strong man to help others reject family violence and find peaceful ways of solving their problems.

## Peter Lindsay and Silena Ashley (Wugularr)

For many years and often at personal risk, Peter and Silena have been working together to combat family violence in their community. While Silena helps victims to access shelter and support, Peter works with the perpetrators.

## Georgina Wilson (Yuendumu)

Georgina is a key person supporting women and young people. Through the women's shelter, the healthy foods store and the night patrol, she constantly looks out for young people, their health and their future.

## Sherman Spencer (Yuendumu)

Working as a Youth Mentor, Sherman helps adults and kids to make stronger, more respectful connections, and encourages young men to solve problems and take responsibility.

## Raelene Kenny (Ti Tree)

Raelene's job involves helping families to solve problems and look after children. On and off the job, she spends many hours helping people to be strong – especially when family members are doing the wrong thing.

8. Richard Tchernia; 9. Presenter David Curtis; 10. Presenter David Curtis with Peter Lindsay and Silena Ashley; 11. Presenter Peter Reeves with Georgina Wilson; 12. Georgina Wilson; 13. Richard Tchernia, Lenny Dumoo and Men and Family Relationships Worker Ralph McCoy; 14. Barry Puruntatameri



# Men and Women Working Together

## From the CEO of CatholicCare NT



CatholicCare NT is proud of our association with the 2009 Strong Families Award and of the role we have played, especially through the efforts of our Men and Family Relationships Workers.

The Award is a tribute to Indigenous men and women who work, often without recognition, to protect and nurture families and to take a stand against domestic violence. The NO MORE ... campaign and the NT Strong Families Award are initiatives to recognise the leadership of those people and to make a change by publicising and extending their work. With men playing their rightful role alongside women, children and families are nurtured and future generations have a more hopeful path.

We are especially grateful for the support of the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), whose flexible approach in funding our Men and Families Program has been a key factor in harnessing the goodwill and leadership of Indigenous men.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with FaHCSIA and national sporting codes, to building links with the private sector and to extending our partnership with the Northern Territory Government

Congratulations to all nominees and the 2009 Award winners.

**Jayne Lloyd, Director CatholicCare NT**

## From FaHCSIA

The Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA) supports the successful No More ... campaign and the NT Strong Families Awards. It was fantastic to see Indigenous men standing up to take action against family violence and it was a privilege to be present at the inaugural awards. In the coming years, we look forward to seeing the No More ... campaign and the NT Strong Families Awards go from strength to strength.

**Brian Stacey, State Manager, FaHCSIA**

## The Winners

Award winners Peter Lindsay and Silena Ashley are from the community of Wugularr, also known as Beswick, about 100 kilometres east of Katherine. In a very difficult decision, they won the award from a field of outstanding nominees. Peter and Silena were chosen because of their consistent work over a long period to help people in family violence crises.

The Award comes with a project grant of \$2000.

*We're not looking for recognition but it's great that we get recognised for some of the things that we do ... We'd like to see a change for the better and for the future. (Peter Lindsay, Award winner with Silena Ashley, Wugularr)*



*We salute our women tonight. We are sorry for the pain that women have had to endure over such a long time. We are sorry for the pain that children have felt and we are committed tonight to stand up with our arms linked together to say, simply: 'No more. It has to stop.' (Charlie King, Chair, NT Strong Men's Council)*

*We just need, especially, our strong men. ... Please keep doing what you're doing ... We appreciate everything that you do. (Dual Australian representative Bo de la Cruz)*



# Our Future, Our Families

## Where to next?

Now is early days for the NT Strong Families Award and the NO MORE ... campaign.

Through the NT Strong Men's Council and links to Australian Football, Indigenous men across the Territory are working to support one another, to play their rightful role alongside their women, and to educate the young. They are also working on new strategies.

The next stage is to harness the goodwill and support of governments and to win backing from the commercial sector.

The inaugural Awards have showcased the positive leadership of Indigenous men and women working in their own way in their own communities. Now it's time to build support and spread the good work further.

The movement is growing.



*We all want to stop violence towards women and children. We all want to bring an end to family violence. But we have to do more than hope for an end to family violence; we MUST bring it to an end. (Former NT Government Minister Jack Ah Kit)*

*We have met over the last couple of years with a commitment among us all that we will stand up strong for our families. We will link our arms together like this and say 'No more' to the violence. Maybe, just maybe, families can sleep a little easier tonight knowing that men are going to stand up and be strong. (Charlie King, Chair, NT Strong Men's Council)*

*As someone said, two men were behind bars. One looked down and saw the mud. The other looked up and saw the stars. Tonight ... we are in the presence of stars who are doing the real work and making a difference. (Bishop Eugene Hurley)*

*These men are the ones that make it happen. Without this strong connection here, I think we could all be overwhelmed. Thank God these guys are around. (Peter Lindsay, Award winner with Silena Ashley, Wugularr)*

*I feel humbled. I feel very much stronger because of all the wonderful work that you mob are doing in your communities. I can't do the work that I do without you mob – and you need another round of applause, all you mob. (Singer song writer Shellie Morris)*



***Martin Luther King had a dream ...***

*We have a dream too. We have a dream that one day all the black men, all the white men, all the black women, all the white women, all the children of all races, can join their arms together like this in saying 'No more' to family violence.*

***(Charlie King, Chairman, NT Strong Men's Council)***



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