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Embargoed Media Release

2015 Paramedic of the Year Awards And the Winner is...

Now in its 16th year, the Paramedic of the Year Awards, are continuing to attract strong support, with members of the community recognising the outstanding work of 34 hard working paramedics. Nominations for the Paramedic of the Year Awards were received from those members of the public treated by paramedics as well as from those who have witnessed and been comforted by their work. Nominations were also received from colleagues who have nominated their peers and new practitioners, those with less than 3 years experience. The awards are a way of acknowledging the outstanding performance of paramedics working in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Nhulunbuy and Darwin and recognises the professional conduct of these paramedics who regularly perform their role under challenging circumstances.

The winner for this year was chosen from a high caliber of nominations and it is with pleasure we announce **Donna Winkworth** of Darwin as the 2015 Paramedic of the Year.

Born in Brisbane, Donna came to the Territory in 1999. She first became involved with St John as a volunteer in 2007 and decided in 2008 that this was the career path she would like to follow. In her first 5 years as a paramedic, Donna was based in Alice Springs and relocated to Darwin in 2012. After spending some time working in Nhulunbuy, Donna has now settled back in Darwin to pursue her passion.

Completing her studies and graduating in 2011 with her Diploma of Paramedic Science (Ambulance) and completing her Degree in Paramedicine the following year, Donna is an integral part of the team. Her peers acknowledge her as dedicated team player who is a genuine all rounder. She is highly regarded by colleagues, management and those she works alongside within the health industry in general.

Donna stood out this year for her ability to demonstrate care and compassion to both the patient and their loved ones during treatment under adverse conditions earlier this year. Donna received nominations by two separate individuals, who were glowing in their reports of her assessment, treatment and compassion during their dealings with her.

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Donna has enjoyed many experiences and challenges that she believes only a Paramedic in the Territory would experience and says “the job can be difficult both mentally and physically, but is often rewarding when you know you have been able to help someone”.

Also being recognised for their outstanding dedication and commitment to serving the local community are the following award winners:

New Practitioner	Mr Derek Archer – Alice Springs
Peer Nominated	Mr Andrew Everingham – Alice Springs
Paramedic Southern	Mr Brock Hellyer – Alice Springs
Paramedic Northern	Mrs Donna Winkworth – Darwin, also receiving the overall award of Paramedic of the Year.

Now in its 16th year, the Paramedic of the Year Awards was established by the Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise to recognise officers who demonstrate the highest standards in professionalism and compassion. St John Ambulance Paramedics rarely seek attention or accolades for the assistance they provide. The Awards provide an opportunity for people who have had first hand experience with the professional service provided by Paramedics, or for carers or relatives, to give feedback, and ensure that officers are continually encouraged and rewarded for their outstanding efforts.

St John Ambulance NT and the Rotary Club of Darwin Sunrise would like to congratulate all nominees, thank all community members who submitted their nominations and also thank the long term sponsors of the Awards – Northern Territory Government, United Voice, Territory Surgical Supplies, Rydges – Rydges Darwin Airport Resort, Telstra Shop Palmerston and Country Classics.

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