

Northern Territory Ambassadors 2021

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Australia Day
Ambassador 
Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.



Nicole Civitarese

2021 NT Young Australian of the Year Nominee

Nicole used her social media platforms to share crucial safety information with her community during COVID-19. After Tennant Creek's only supermarket burned down, Nicole participated in the delivery of essential food packages to vulnerable community members and in August 2020 raised thousands of dollars for breast cancer research. Nicole has held leadership positions and volunteered for many community organisations. As secretary of the Tennant Creek RSL Sub Branch and member of the NT Veteran Affairs Ministerial Advisory Council, she advocates for returned service, ex-service, and veteran community personnel while encouraging community conversations about military service.

Reanna Sanders

2021 NT Local Hero Nominee

Reanna Sanders serves up more than 100 free meals to people in need every Sunday in the Palmerston pool car park. Reanna's excitement and enthusiasm inspires volunteers and donations. Auntys Free Feeds is supported by a small group of volunteers who assist by cooking and bringing along additional meals. Her community involvement and desire to help the less fortunate are providing a valuable service for those who need it most.



Matthew Axten

2021 NT Young Australian of the Year nominee

Matthew Axten, an Arrernte teacher who is committed to making a real difference in the lives of students at Gillen School in Alice Springs.

Taking a leadership role, he uses values-based practice to cultivate a community of students and nurture a supportive learning environment.

Matthew has worked to enhance literacy and numeracy while implementing school-wide positive behaviour support.

He is also committed to engaging parents in their children's learning to make positive long-term changes in the lives of students.



Dr Sanjay Joseph

2021 NT Young Australian of the Year nominee

Dr Sanjay Joseph, a junior doctor at the Top End Health Service who is dedicated to improving wellbeing for all Territorians. In 2016, Sanjay began Healthy Start Darwin, a health education project providing refugees with information and access to medical services. Sanjay is passionate about rural and Indigenous health and encourages his fellow doctors to help vulnerable community members. In 2019, he was awarded the Northern Territory Junior Medical Officer of the Year and the Australian Junior Doctor of the Year.





Jane Alia

2019 NT Young Australian of the Year nominee

Arriving in Australia as a teenager as a refugee, Jane has wasted no time in giving back to her community. A dedicated student, she has already achieved multiple qualifications and is a qualified Registered Nurse at Royal Darwin Hospital . She is a volunteer mentor and advocate for refugees, and received the Minister for Young Territorians' Excellence in Youth Leadership in 2015.

Adam Drake

2019 NT Australian of the Year Nominee

An advocate for young people and a long-term Territorian, Adam Drake founded Balanced Choice in 2014 to improve outcomes for young people in the justice system. Adam has designed unique programs that tie together fitness, team building and psychology to help troubled children make positive choices.



David Taylor

2016 NT Australia's Local Hero

David was named 2016 Australian of the Year NT Local Hero in recognition for his work with disengaged, homeless, and at-risk young people. Using his background as a teaching Chef, he used his culinary knowledge and his passion to affect real change to guide them back into education or into meaningful employment. David facilitates personal growth and wellness sessions in Darwin schools for the GROW Foundation. He believes that until young people can see themselves as useful and worthwhile, they will struggle to have a positive outlook for the future. It is up to each of us to encourage our young people with love, care, and compassion.

Bob Shewring

2016 NT Senior Australian of the Year

Twenty five of the 521 Australians killed in the Vietnam War didn't make it home to Australia and Vietnam veteran Bob Shewring was determined to rectify this terrible wrong. Bob founded Operation "Bring Them Home" in 2014 and garnered over 40,000 signatures through an online petition before the Australian Government agreed in May 2015 to repatriate these soldiers' bodies. Bob continues to Advocate on the behalf of Veterans and others in attempting to reduce the number of suicides of veterans and first responders.

