

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **2019 NORTHERN TERRITORY AUSTRALIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED**

**2019 Northern Territory Australian of the Year – Michael Long**  
**2019 Northern Territory Senior Australian of the Year – Charlie King OAM** (not in attendance)  
**2019 Northern Territory Young Australian of the Year – Danzal Baker** (not in attendance)  
**2019 Northern Territory Local Hero – Tick and Kate Everett**

The 2019 Northern Territory Australian of the Year Award recipients have been announced this evening at a ceremony held at The Darwin Convention Centre.

The Northern Territory Award recipients will become part of 32 State and Territory recipients from around the country. These recipients will represent their state at the national Awards on 25 January 2019 in Canberra, where the four Australians of the Year will be announced.

**The 2019 Northern Territory Australian of the Year is AFL champion and community leader Michael Long of Darwin.** Darwin born, Michael Long, Australian Rules Football icon is an advocate for reconciliation and fights against racism through the Michael Long Foundation supporting the ML Learning and Leadership centre and the Long Walk.

Michael played 190 games for Essendon, including two premierships wins. Awarded the Norm Smith Medal in 1993, Essendon include Michael in their 25 greatest players ever.

In 1995, following an on-field taunt, Michael made a stand which led to the AFL adopting a racial abuse code. In 2004, resolving to meet with Former Prime Minister John Howard to get Indigenous issues back on the national agenda, Michael embarked on 'The Long Walk', trekking 650km from his home in Melbourne all the way to Parliament House in Canberra.

Michael established the Michael Long Learning and Leadership Centre using the power of football to give young Indigenous Territorians opportunities for the future.

Today, Michael is working with the Essendon Football Club and The Long Walk Foundation to increase awareness of Indigenous culture and history. Through leadership, speaking out and hard work, Michael is tenacious in bringing real reform.

**The 2019 Northern Territory Senior Australian of the Year is 67 year old human rights campaigner Charlie King OAM of Darwin.** Gurindji man, Charlie King OAM is a veteran sports broadcaster and human rights campaigner. His expertise on and off the sporting field has made him much-loved in the Northern Territory and around Australia. In 2008, Charlie became the first Indigenous Australian to commentate at an Olympic Games.

Charlie is also a passionate campaigner against domestic violence and initiated the zero-tolerance campaign 'NO MORE' in 2006. Reaching the Indigenous and wider Australian community, the NO MORE campaign has links with more than five sporting codes and nearly a hundred teams – and is still growing.

In 2015, Charlie was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to broadcast media and the Indigenous community. Charlie won a Northern Territory human-rights award in 2016 and used the moment to call for an end to family violence over Christmas. For 25 years he has also volunteered to sit with children in trouble without a parent or guardian during police interviews.

Charlie was unable to attend tonight's awards event and his trophy was accepted on his behalf.

**The 2019 Northern Territory Young Australian of the Year is 22 year old rapper and dancer Danzal Baker of Milingimbi.** Working across rap, dance, acting and graffiti, Danzal Baker is a multi-talented, multi-lingual, Indigenous artist. Danzal, otherwise known as Baker Boy, is the first Indigenous artist to achieve mainstream success rapping in the Yolngu Matha language.

Raised in Milingimbi and Maningrida, Danzal rapped his way to national prominence when his single *Marryuna* was voted into 17<sup>th</sup> place in Triple J's Hottest 100 for 2017; a notable follow-up from his debut single *Cloud 9*, which won Triple J's Unearthed competition.

Danzal is also an award winner at the National Indigenous Music Awards. He has signed a record deal with Select Music and was handpicked by English rapper Dizzee Rascal to be his Australian support act. In 2018, Danzal won the prestigious Charles Darwin University Art Award at the Northern Territory Young Achievers Awards. Touring Australia extensively, Danzal is using his talent to inspire young people in remote Indigenous communities and encourage them to embrace their culture and take up leadership positions.

Danzal was unable to attend tonight's ceremony and his trophy was accepted on his behalf.

**The 2019 Northern Territory Local Heroes are anti-bullying advocates, Kate and Tick Everett of Katherine.** Following the tragic death of their teenage daughter, Amy 'Dolly' Everett in January 2018, following extensive bullying, Kate and Tick Everett founded Dolly's Dream, to create positive change and a legacy to their daughter.

Dolly's Dream aims to raise awareness about bullying and its potentially devastating effects on children and families. It delivers community education on bullying issues and strategies for preventing and mitigating bullying, through cultural change and victim support.

Over 250 communities have held fundraisers and events to support Dolly's Dream, with a particular focus on regional and rural Australia. Kate and Tick's non-stop advocacy, meeting with the Prime Minister and Education and Health Ministers across the country, has resulted in governments taking childhood bullying and its devastating impacts more seriously.

Kate and Tick advocate tenaciously on a voluntary basis while continuing to muster cattle, train horses and care for their other daughter, Megan, from their home in Katherine, Northern Territory.

Australia Day Council NT Chair, Ms Jeannette Button said it was an honour to be involved in the Australian of the Year Awards.

"It is an honour to learn about the wonderful stories of our Territory nominees, of how they have encouraged others, made an enormous contribution to our communities and in many cases touched the hearts of those around them," said Ms Button.

"Congratulations to tonight's Award recipients, your stories remind us all of the amazing opportunities available in the Territory, our cultural diversity and collective ability to achieve great things."

# Australian of the Year ➤ Awards 2019

National Australia Day Council CEO, Ms Karlie Brand congratulated the Award recipients.

“The Northern Territory Award recipients are making important contributions on a national scale - breaking down barriers, using their own experience to support and inspires others in their community, promoting the world’s oldest culture in modern arts and overcoming tragedy to tackle major issues affecting our young people.”

“We look forward to welcoming them to Canberra in January for the national awards.”

For more information on the Australian of the Year Awards visit [australianoftheyear.org.au](http://australianoftheyear.org.au).

**ENDS.**

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**EMBARGO NOTE:** Media attending the Awards event may of course report Award recipients as they are announced on stage OR follow Australian of the Year Awards on Twitter @ausoftheyear or Facebook for the Awards announcements as they happen - once each award is announced, it can be reported. If you are not following the live announcements, you must wait until the embargo time to report.

**PHOTOS:** from the Awards announcement event can be downloaded as available from [australianoftheyear.org.au](http://australianoftheyear.org.au)

**For more information** on the Australian of the Year Awards visit <https://www.australianoftheyear.org.au/nominate/frequently-asked-questions/>