



# Northern Territory Ambassadors 2022



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**Northern Territory**





### **Sergeant Erica Gibson** 2021 NT Australia's Local Hero

Erica Gibson, a police officer for over 30 years, who is creating safer communities for Northern Territory women.

A passionate supporter of programs that combat family violence, she implemented a network of safe homes in remote communities to protect those in domestic violence situations.

Erica is active in a range of community initiatives that empower women and girls, including the Stars Foundation and White Ribbon Day.

She is a respected and inspirational mentor for women in the police force.

In 2017, Erica received a Telstra NT Businesswomen's Award.



### **Kwame Selormey** 2022 NT Australian of the Year nominee

Kwame Selormey has dedicated his professional life to helping children, families, people with disabilities, people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and people with mental illness.

As CEO of Northern Territory not-for-profit organization Melaleuca Australia, Kwame has reformed its strategic direction to better support diversity, healing and community, as it helps refugees, migrants and asylum seekers settling into Australia. Kwame's achievements include leading one of Western Australia's largest Family Day Care Schemes and helping develop Australia's early childhood curriculum framework.

He's also helped individualize support services for people with disabilities and severe mental illness.



### **Paul Walker** 2022 NT Australia's Local Hero nominee

Australian Army veteran Paul Walker is a youth resilience and mental health speaker, as well as a former community services worker and financial counsellor in the Northern Territory. Once a homeless teen with substance abuse issues, Paul joined the army and became a well-respected soldier.

On his second overseas deployment in December 2000, Paul came under fire in East Timor and he saved a fellow soldier shot in the leg. Paul was later diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression.

Paul now inspires others with his compassionate approach to explaining 'internal injuries' from a military perspective.



### **Paige Horrigan** 2022 NT Young Australian of the Year nominee

Paige Horrigan is on a mission to promote greater awareness and acceptance of LGBTQ+ people and issues within the Palmerston community.

They have been significantly involved with the City of Palmerston's Youth Media Team and programs, as well as playing a leading role with Student Voice Positive Choice – a campaign supporting students to make positive choices and stand up for what's right to ensure all young people feel safe.

It's Paige's ability to turn a negative situation into a positive that most inspires those around them to make changes for a better society.



### **Kyle Bambra**

**2022 NT Young Australian of the Year nominee**

Arnhem Land's Kyle Bambra mentors Indigenous youth as part of the Balunu Foundation. He encourages them to give back to their communities, while teaching them about their culture and choosing the right path in life. Committed to becoming a qualified hairdresser, he's currently completing his hairdressing traineeship. He's already using his new skills to give back; travelling to remote communities and volunteering with not-for-profits to cut and colour hair for free.

Kyle was recognised for his efforts when he received the One Rail Indigenous Achievement Award at the 2021 Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards.



### **Emma Warren**

**2022 NT Young Australian of the Year nominee**

Emma Warren is a young female empowerment coach and the founder of She Flourishes. The company is dedicated to empowering and helping young women reach their potential and accomplish their goals. As part of the company's launch, Emma facilitated online coaching programs, started a podcast and hosted multiple Confidence and Resilience workshops in collaboration with the Northern Territory Government. Before becoming a life coach, Emma founded Social Splash – a social media advertising, strategic management, photography and consultancy business.

In 2021, Emma won the Charles Darwin University Innovation Award at the Northern Territory Young Achiever Awards.



### **Rebecca Forrest**

**2022 NT Australia's Local Hero nominee**

Rebecca Forrest has an incredible talent for bringing people together. Over 13 years, her events have raised \$1 million for a range of worthy causes. In 2018, Rebecca founded No One Left Behind – events that focus on women but also welcome men in sharing journeys and experiences to inspire others. Her inaugural International Men's Day Forum included emotional addresses from Professor Mick Dodson AM and Tick Everett from Dolly's Dream.

Rebecca is the Vice President of Business and Professional Women in Darwin. She also won the 2021 Palmerston Citizen of the Year.



### **Sizol Fuyana**

**2022 NT Young Australian the Year nominee**

After overcoming her own adversities and mental health issues, small business owner Sizol Fuyana now devotes her life to supporting disadvantaged young people who are at risk of entering the justice system. Sizol is the founder and Managing Director of Fuyana Support. It's a youth-oriented consultancy firm that provides social and emotional wellbeing support to young people, equipping them with skills to help them be more effective members of their communities.

A law and psychology student who has volunteered for many working groups, Sizol recently received a Northern Territory Government Small Business Achievement Award.





### **Leanne Liddle**

#### **2022 NT Australian of the Year nominee**

Arrernte woman Leanne Liddle has travelled thousands of kilometres to listen to Aboriginal Territorians to ensure they have a voice in the justice system. As South Australia's first Aboriginal policewoman, Leanne experienced racist abuse. After leaving the force, she continued fighting for justice. She completed a law degree with honours, eventually becoming the Director of the Aboriginal Justice Unit.

Leanne is the driving force behind the Northern Territory's first Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA), which aims to reduce reoffending and imprisonment rates, engage Aboriginal leadership and improve justice for Aboriginal Territorians.



### **Robyne Burridge OAM**

#### **2022 NT Senior Australian of the Year nominee**

For over 40 years, Robyne Burridge has been a committed advocate for greater equality, accessibility and quality of life for all.

Robyne is a founding member of Integrated DisAbility Action, and a member of the governance committee on the NT Primary Health Network. She also established Focus-A-Bility to provide advocacy, case management and information to individuals with disability.

With her lived experience of cerebral palsy and expertise in disability advocacy, she is highly respected as a leader in the sector, receiving an Order of Australia Medal in 2020.



### **Malia Ford**

Malia was born and raised in the Territory, currently completing her final year of her Masters in Occupational Therapy she stands to become one of the first cohort of Territory trained OT's.

Malia's passion is finding what empowers and inspires an individual and helping them on the path to achieve it! Through this passion she was a founding member and vice chair of Two Two One Mental Health Charity where she assisted in establishing the 'GO' (Girls Only) Night's youth program, a drop-in service for young women aged 10-17 in the Northern Suburbs of Darwin. She believes that Territorians are a unique culture of their own and works in collaboration with a range of volunteer organisations to work towards increasing the holistic wellbeing of all Territorians.



### **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.