

2011 Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Safety



The innovation and professionalism of Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) staff has been recognised at the 2011 Minister's Awards for Excellence in Community Safety.

In a ceremony held at Parliament House on 18 July, the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, Neil Roberts, presented a total of seven awards for Excellence in Community Safety, with five highly commended awards, and one encouragement award under the categories: Green, Healthy, Smart, Fair, Strong, Closing the Gap and ZEROham.

Five out of the seven categories align with the Government's 2020 vision for Queensland which identifies ambitions that address current and future challenges.

Seven QCS projects were honoured with awards. These included initiatives from the Arthur Gorrie and Woodford correctional centres' Industries departments (Green), Woodford's Safety Unit (Healthy), and Maryborough Correctional Centre and Kingaroy Probation and Parole (Closing the Gap).

Awards were also presented to Queensland Fire and Rescue Service's (QFRS) Brisbane Region Building Fire Safety Task Force for its work following the Brisbane floods; the QFRS Rural Operations Volunteer Community Educators project team; the DCS Disaster

Management Review project team; and the QFRS Rural Operations Caboolture Area Office.

For the first time in the awards' history, joint winners were declared for the ZEROHarm award, which recognise Department of Community Safety workplaces that deliver outstanding levels of organisational health and safety.

The winners in this category were the QFRS Central Region for its safety leadership, and the Murgon, Wondai, Proston and Goomeri SES groups for their development of the Personal Assistant Lighting System.

The judges noted the extremely high standard of initiatives and projects nominated this year when deciding the seven winners and five highly commended awards.

Mr Roberts said each of the award nominees displayed the upmost dedication, professionalism and resolve in their working lives to deliver the very best for Queenslanders.

'They are the heroes of the community. The roles they play in the community both on the front line and behind the scenes provide inspiration to us all,' he said.

'This event was an important opportunity to honour those who

Main photo: All of the award recipients gather with Minister Neil Roberts and DCS Director-General Jim McGowan. Above right: Mr Roberts presents the ZEROHarm award to SES volunteer Grant Geddes. Below right: Mr McGowan addresses the audience during the ceremony at Parliament House

have achieved excellence in delivering community safety in their various roles across each of the divisions which make up this great department.

'Whether it's a firefighter conducting a Safehome visit, an Emergency Management Queensland rescue crewman winning an injured bushwalker to safety, a paramedic reviving a patient or a corrections officer contributing to prisoner rehabilitation – all staff contribute greatly to ensuring and enhancing community safety in Queensland.

'These awards are one way we can recognise and celebrate those who go above and beyond the call of duty.'

Fourteen Minister's Awards nominations have also been submitted by DCS for consideration in the 2011 Premier's Awards for Excellence in Public Sector Management.

DCS is grateful for the support of the Queensland Police Credit Union which sponsored the awards for the fourth consecutive year.



Strong



The Strong Award recognised outstanding performance and achievement that significantly contributes to creating a strong, diverse and competitive economy. The winner for this category was the QFRS Brisbane Region Building Fire Safety Task Force for their work in the Brisbane Floods Building Rehabilitation Program. This year Brisbane City suffered disastrous consequences from unprecedented inundation, which occurred in January 2011. The high flood water levels reached both the metropolitan and business district. The staff of the QFRS Building Fire Safety Unit recognised the problem and its consequences and by using initiative, quickly formed a workable Flood Recovery Plan which enabled rapid but thorough and detailed interventions assessments to be carried out on over 500 effected buildings. A highly commended award for this category was awarded to the Palen Creek Correctional Centre Farm (The centre's Peter Shaddock, Geoff Walker, Jim Cook and Paul Wimmer are pictured above). This centre is a 120-bed low-security facility built on a 520-acre cattle property located outside of Rathdowney near the Queensland/NSW border. The centre was the first prison farm of its type to open in Australia and has established a successful cattle breeding program.

Green



The Green Award recognised outstanding performance and achievement in conservation, sustainable development and management of natural resources, heritage projects and the built environment through internal best practice and/or external service delivery. The winner for this category was the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre – Industry Department (Centre staff Greg Howden, Lisa Boase, Scott Hamlett and Shirley Sheppard are pictured above). The Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre is committed to environmental initiatives and conservation strategies that protect Australia's wildlife. This year, AGCC has linked concerted efforts to include a focus on carbon neutral strategies as well as assisting the conservation of native wildlife. A highly commended award in this category was awarded to the Woodford Correctional Centre Prison Industries – Woodford Trade Instructors. The Woodford Prison Industries has taken on the challenge to reduce its carbon footprint by one third by 2020. The centre's 'Green initiatives' are rejuvenating waste wood material and reconstituting that waste into building products. To become carbon neutral and lessen landfill, many staff members have already taken action to reduce the centre's impact on the environment.

Fair



The Fair Award recognised outstanding performance and achievement in supporting safe and caring communities. The winner for this category was the QFRS Rural Operations Volunteer Community Educators (VCE) project team. The purpose of the VCE role is 'locals educating locals', providing credibility and local knowledge to the delivery of bushfire and safety education in Queensland communities. Volunteers deliver education programs and assist in the development and implementation of Bushfire Action Plans and provide information to their communities during and after incidents. A highly commended award for this category was presented to the Disaster Management Review Project Team. The project team was formed to seek State Government endorsement of the proposed changes to the disaster management arrangements and lead the subsequent implementation. An encouragement award for this category was presented to the QCS, Metro South – Cleveland Probation and Parole (Recipients Joseph Cranitch from QPS and Helen Gabrielle of Cleveland Probation and Parole are pictured above). The Attitudinal Driving Workshop was developed to address anti-social attitudes and poor decision making of members of the public in relation to driving and traffic offences. The workshop is strongly supported by magistrates and attendance is often included in an offender's bail conditions. The initiative has had a positive impact on reducing the number of driving and traffic offences in the Cleveland jurisdiction.

Smart



The Smart Award recognised outstanding performance and achievement that contributed towards improved outcomes for students, and/or helped grow the state's skills base. The winner for this category was the QFRS Rural Ops – Rural Operations Caboolture Area Office. The recruitment and retention of younger volunteers into the Rural Fire Service is a priority for QFRS Rural Operations. QFRS Rural Operations Caboolture Area Office identified an opportunity to engage with and recruit high school students through the flexibility offered under the QCE, enabling them to gain credits towards their studies, new skills and also give back to the community. A highly commended award was presented to Borallon Correctional Centre's Education Team (Borallon's Liesl Turley, Fons Boots and Rebecca Le Masurier are pictured above). Offender Education at Borallon Correctional centre has delivered an innovative education program of learning to offenders in the facility. Through 'Learning – Pathway to Potential', the Education team at Borallon has delivered a unique service with an extraordinary degree of commitment and achieved excellent results for offenders, their families and Queensland Corrective Services.

Healthy

The Healthy Award recognised outstanding performance and achievement that contributed to improving the health of Queenslanders through internal best practice and/or external service delivery. The highly commended award for this category was awarded to the Woodford Correctional Centre – Safety Unit. The Woodford Safety Unit provides a safe, sterile and secure environment in which to manage offenders who have been assessed as posing a medium or high risk of self-harm or suicide by a nurse or psychologist, or of posing a high risk of harm to other due to psychological presentation. The Safety Unit provides this 'at risk' management service to several correctional centres in South East Queensland via a referral process. (Pictured is award recipient Scott Collins, with recipients for Woodford's other award – in the Green category: David Henderson, Peter Walters and Michael Curtis).



Closing the Gap

The Closing the Gap Award recognised outstanding performance and achievements that promote and facilitate reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their respective communities. The winner of this award was the Maryborough Correctional Centre and Kingaroy Probation and Parole District Office for the Cherbourg Ration Shed project. The project involves Indigenous prisoners and offenders from Cherbourg learning employable skills to construct furniture and propagate plants for a reparation project that would benefit their own community – landscaping the grounds of the Ration Shed Museum – the focal point of the Cherbourg community. Through this project, 10 prisoners have gained nationally recognised qualifications on construction. Award recipients Bernadette Francis and Lea Carter are pictured right.

