The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP
Minister for Aged Care
Minister for Indigenous Health
Member for Hasluck

MEDIA RELEASE

25 January 2017

2017 Senior Australian of the Year

The Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, Ken Wyatt AM, MP today welcomed the announcement of Sister Anne Gardiner AM as the 2017 Senior Australian of the Year.

“The 2017 Senior Australian of the Year Award publicly recognises Sister Anne’s many achievements as well as the high regard in which she is held by the Tiwi people,” Minister Wyatt said.

“As school principal, teacher, mentor, spiritual guide and friend, Sister Anne has lived and worked alongside the Tiwi people for 50 years educating generations of children and strengthening the community through groups like mother’s clubs and Little Athletics.

“Like many older Australians who have retired, Sister Anne remains active and engaged in the life of her community.

“Sister Anne has opened an op shop and a coffee shop and worked tirelessly with the community to establish the Patakajiyali museum where Tiwi history, culture and language will be preserved for future generations.”

For more than a decade the Australian Government has proudly sponsored the Senior Australian of the Year Award to acknowledge the important and ongoing contribution of older people in our community.

“The skills and experiences of older Australians continue to make a real and positive difference to our way of life,” Minister Wyatt said.

“Every day, across this nation, our older people are helping to build better communities and their contribution means that we will all enjoy a better, kinder and more cohesive society.”

For more information about the Australia Day Awards visit www.australianoftheyear.org.au

For more information, contact the Minister's Office on 02 6277 4707 or mobile 0435 686 314.