



Sarah Mitchell
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs

Tanya Davies
Minister for Women

MEDIA RELEASE

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KAMILAROI WOMAN WINS NSW ABORIGINAL WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Kamilaroi woman Julie Shelley, who has dedicated her life to supporting members of the Western Sydney Aboriginal community, has been named as the NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Sarah Mitchell presented Ms Shelley with the award this morning at the 2018 NSW Women of the Year Awards breakfast at the ICC Darling Harbour.

“Julie has touched many lives through her work with Aboriginal young people and their families. Her inspiring career has spanned close to five decades and includes experience as an Aboriginal support worker, liaison and counsellor,” Minister Mitchell said.

Ms Shelley worked in the community while obtaining a Master of Social Work, Bachelor Health Science (Mental Health), Graduate Diploma in Aboriginal Family and Community Counselling and an Advanced Diploma of Specialist Aboriginal Trauma Counselling. She is the Chair of the Aboriginal Communities Matter Advisory Group and an advocate for members of the Stolen Generation, of which she is a member herself.

“Julie is a true leader and role model in her community. I have no doubt her experiences will inspire Aboriginal women and girls across the state who might be considering careers advocating for their communities,” Minister Mitchell said.

Minister for Women Tanya Davies said the NSW Women of the Year Awards support the NSW Government’s commitment to building an equitable, inclusive and safe society where all women are valued and respected.

“The Awards are an important opportunity to acknowledge women who are driving societal change through their passions and purpose. I congratulate Ms Shelley for her contributions and role in leading the way for the future generation of women.”

The Aboriginal Woman of the Year Award is one of seven award categories and recognises an Aboriginal woman in NSW who has excelled in her chosen career, field or passion.

For event photos and a full list of finalists and winners please visit <https://women.nsw.gov.au>

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