

Minister for Fair Trading
Minister for Citizenship
Minister Assisting the Premier on the Arts

Virginia Judge MP



16 December 2008

MINISTER CALLS ON CHINESE COMMUNITY TO NOMINATE HEROES FOR AWARDS

Minister for Citizenship, Virginia Judge today urged Australians of Chinese background to nominate their community heroes for the 2009 New South Wales Premier's Chinese Community Service Awards.

Speaking from the Chinese Gardens of Friendship at Darling Harbour, Ms Judge said Chinese-Australians played a key role in the development and continued success of the State.

"These prestigious awards celebrate the long-standing contribution of the Chinese-Australian community, and in particular, the history of philanthropic and voluntary community activities," Ms Judge said.

"They deservedly recognise hard-working people who give freely of their time and energy to make our society a better place to live."

Three categories honour great Australians of Chinese background who selflessly dedicated their skills and talents to the Australian community.

The Victor Chang Service Award, named after the pioneering heart transplant surgeon, recognises excellence in community citizenship.

The Jack Wong Sue Award for Voluntary Community Service recognises community service beyond the Chinese community – befitting his war hero status.

Businessman and philanthropist, Quong Tart, is remembered through the Quong Tart Lifetime Achievement Award in Community Service.

"The fourth category recognises the valuable role of young volunteers," Ms Judge said.

"I urge the community to acknowledge and encourage the distinguished community service of the leaders of tomorrow."

The Awards are organized by the NSW Community Relations Commission. More information, including the entry form (in both English and Chinese), is available on the Commission's website at www.crc.nsw.gov.au. Entry forms may also be obtained by calling Thida Yang on (02) 8255 6799.

Nominations close on Friday 16th January, 2009. The awards will be presented during the Lunar New Year in February 2009.

Winners will receive a certificate and official citation. Members from any of the diverse Chinese communities in New South Wales are eligible for nomination.

Media contact: Kimberley Ramplin 9228 5900 / 0429 397 377