



Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Women's Council chief executive Andrea Mason is a finalist in the NT Australian of the Year Awards.

Picture: PHIL WILLIAMS

Aussie of Year finalist already kicking goals

Andrea Johnston

ANDREA Mason has been named as a finalist in the Northern Territory Australian of the Year awards.

The chief executive of the Ngaanyatjarra Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (NPY) Women's Council said it was "a lot to take in".

The announcement comes straight off the back of her recent win at the NT Telstra Businesswoman of the Year awards. The national winner will be announced in Melbourne on November 16.

"Winning the Telstra award has elevated the contacts and conversations that people

want to have with me to learn more about what we do at NPY Women's Council," she said.

As the only Centralian across all the categories in the Australian of the Year awards, and the only woman among the four nominees for the main title, Ms Mason said it was great news for Alice Springs.

"This is what we work for as business women; to extend the opportunity to have our profile reach a broader audience," she said.

Ms Mason addressed a business audience in Alice Springs on Tuesday, at the Chamber of Commerce Women in Business lunch.

In the time she's been in

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ANDREA MASON

place at the NPY Women's Council, she's seen staff numbers more than double, and huge financial growth thanks to new relationships with all levels of government, the cor-

porate sector and in-kind support. Her efforts are obviously paying off.

Ms Mason told the audience the key was investing in NPY's biggest asset: its staff.

"How easy life is when the right person is in the right role to make the right impact," she said.

She said investing in staff had led to an "explosion of growth" and put her own success down to the same thing.

"I've been the right person in the right place doing the right role in businesses with the right people, working in the right places, delivering the right impact. Simple as that."

Ms Mason highlighted the

impact of alcohol on the community and thanked the new NT Government for its leadership on tackling alcohol-fuelled violence.

She said she accepted that the 97 per cent of Australia's people who make up the non-Aboriginal population may have a focus elsewhere, but most agreed the indigenous population deserved "fair and just support" to live "safe and satisfying lives".

"The solution to this is to support the organisations with the means and track record of implementing solutions," Ms Mason said.

The NT Australian of the Year will be announced on November 2.