

Michael Gunner
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory



Media Statement

Vale Dr Val Asche AM

29 August 2019

The Northern Territory Chief Minister Michael Gunner has passed on his, and his Government's, condolences to the family of the late Dr Valerie Asche AM.

Dr Asche passed away on Monday evening. She is the wife of former Administrator of the Northern Territory, The Honourable Austin Asche AC QC.

In her own right, Dr Asche was a distinguished microbiologist and researcher who was recognised with a Doctorate from Melbourne University and an Honorary Doctorate from Charles Darwin University.

Her work included filling the role of Senior Research Officer at the Menzies School of Health Research, with particular emphasis on research into melioidosis. She was also a Sessional Microbiologist at the Royal Darwin Hospital.

Dr Asche received a Distinguished Service Award from the Australian Society of Microbiology and was the first patron to be appointed a Dame of the Order of St John of Jerusalem (DStJ).

Included in her many other achievements are an AM from Order of Australia, Fellow of Janet Clarke Hall, Paul Harris Fellow from Rotary and Life Member of the Country Women's Association.

Dr Asche was also an active contributor to the Top End community with patronages in Variety, Somerville, Girl Guides, Nursing Museum, Alzheimers, Retired Specialists and U3A.

Quotes from Chief Minister Michael Gunner:

"Our sincerest and most heartfelt condolences go to former NT Administrator Austin Asche, children Wendy and Harry, and their families, on this sad occasion.

"Dr Asche believed in the Territory and left a lasting legacy through her tireless work in the health and research sector and through her community ties.

"Vale Valerie Asche."

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